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EDITOR'S NOTE

Striking out

In this magazine last year, we ran an feature detailing a potential lockout in what has become America's most popular sport. The title was "The NFL's Brewing Storm."

Many fans thought at the time that the owners and players association would be able to work out a deal with a year to go. After all, the NFL has a current popularity no other sport has seen before.

But the 2010 season came and went with no deal. Still, the current collective bargaining agreement didn't expire until March, so there was time. Surely, the two sides could get something done, especially after it was announced that the ratings for Super Bowl 45 set a record as the most-watched TV program in American history (breaking the previous mark set just a year before with Super Bowl 44).

But again, nothing. A glimmer of hope with a negotiation extension turned out to be a tease, as the brewing storm finally erupted in March with the NFL officially locking out its players. Since then, it's been an offseason unlike any other for the league and its fans.

Instead of looking up statistics of potential free agents, we're looking up past rulings of appellate court judges. Instead of circling key showdowns between our favorite teams, we're circling key dates of when rulings will be handed down.

This has been billed as a showdown between the NFL's owners and Players Association, but really it's the "haves" against the "have-mores." With the current state of the economy, it's hard to sympathize with either side. If you're an NFL owner, money hasn't been a problem for quite some time. And the weekly minimum just for being on an NFL practice squad is $5,200, a paycheck many of us would take in a heartbeat.

Personally, I'm sick of it all. Sick of hearing the finger-pointing arguments from both sides, with no proactive approach taken. Sick of writing the phrase, "when a new collective bargaining agreement is signed." (It's in the following pages too many times to count.) Sick of stays, appeals, briefs and all the other legalese we've had to endure this spring and summer.

I'm also tired of the league's owners and Players Association playing the blame game, trying to sway public opinion to their side. Commissioner Roger Goodell responded to the boos and chants of "We want football!" at the NFL draft (yet another tease for fans during a weekend in which the lockout was lifted, then immediately put back into place) by saying, "I hear you."

But the fact is, Goodell isn't listening. Neither is the NFLPA. If they were, a deal would have been struck a long time ago. Granted, there are important issues that should be addressed. Concern over player safety is at an all-time high, given the ever-increasing number of concussions suffered. And there's a need for better benefits for retired players. But arguing over how billions of dollars should be divided up? Give me a break.

And here's the worst part: No matter how much the fans complain or get frustrated, we'll be right there when the season starts, lining up to buy tickets and ready to root for our favorite team. The NFL knows this, too. That's how much of a juggernaut it has become. The league can shut everything down and instead of turning away or boycotting the sport, we're desperate for any kind of news regarding a ruling from the courts. Sad, but true.

This magazine went to press as the fate of the 2011 season was held up in court proceedings. While there is little free agent news and a number of remaining questions for several teams (who in the world is going to play quarterback for Arizona?), we here at *Sporting News* pride ourselves on still bringing you the most in-depth coverage from our national writers and 32 team correspondents.

And, yes, by the time you read this magazine, there well could be a new collective bargaining agreement in place.

For the sake of the sport and its fans, I sure as hell hope there is.

MATT McKENZIE
Assistant Editor

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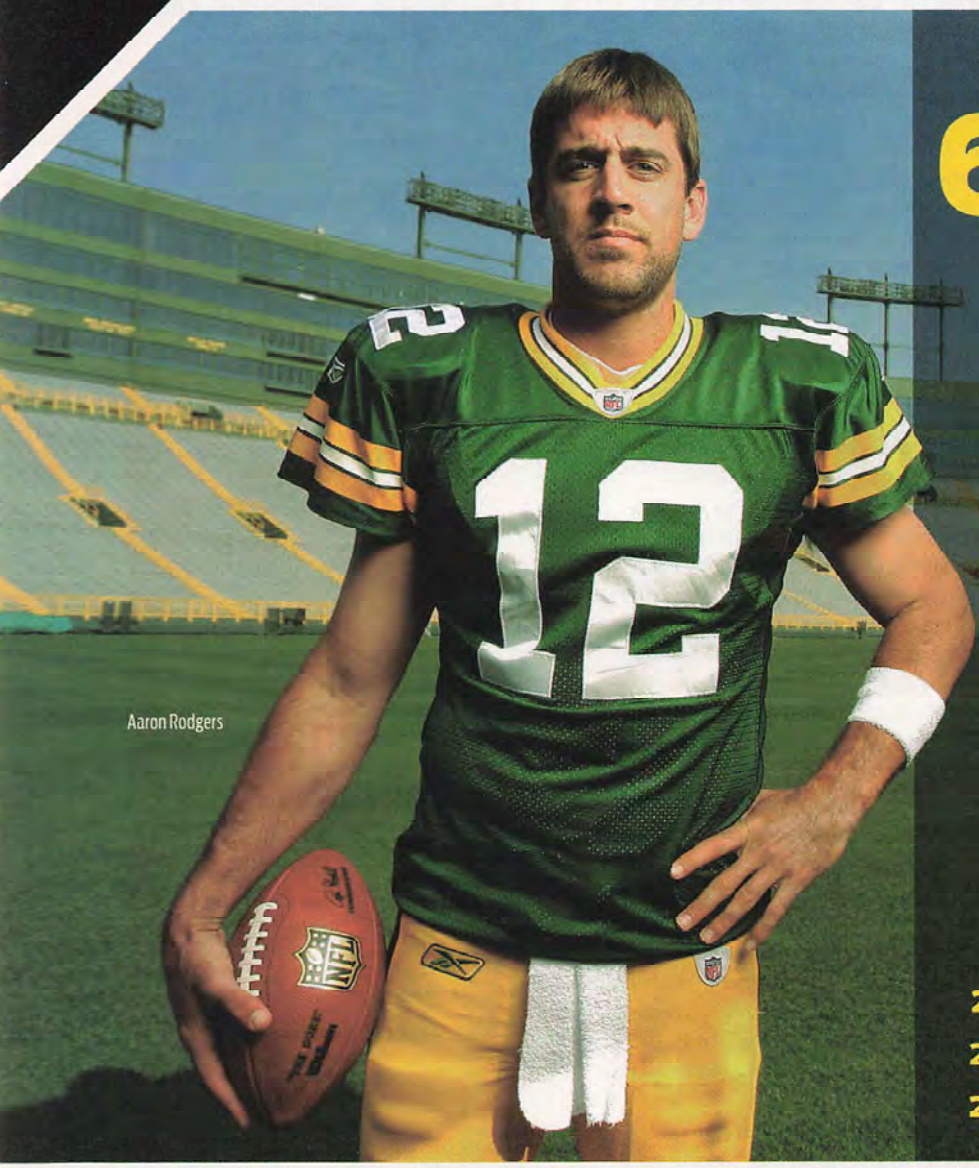

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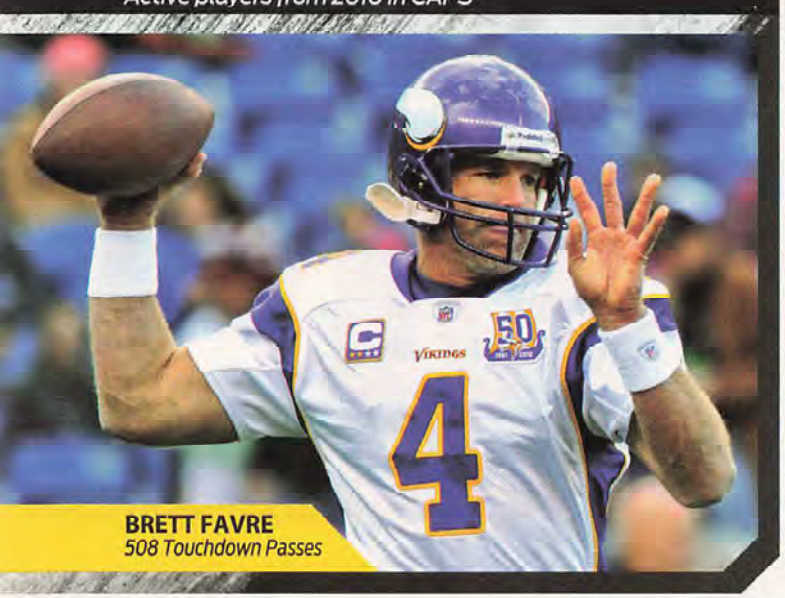

BRETT FAVRE
508 Touchdown Passes

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Stanley Morgan	10,716
Keyshawn Johnson	10,571
Harold Jackson	10,372
Lance Alworth	10,266
Andre Rison	10,205
Shannon Sharpe	10,060
Eric Moulds	9,995
Drew Hill	9,831
DONALD DRIVER	9,615
Amani Toomer	9,497
Rob Moore	9,368
Raymond Berry	9,275
Herman Moore	9,174
ANDRE JOHNSON	9,164
Anthony Miller	9,148
Charley Taylor	9,110
Tony Martin	9,065
Harold Carmichael	8,985
Fred Biletnikoff	8,974
Mark Clayton	8,974
Wes Chandler	8,966
Roy Green	8,965
STEVE SMITH	8,884
Ricky Proehl	8,878

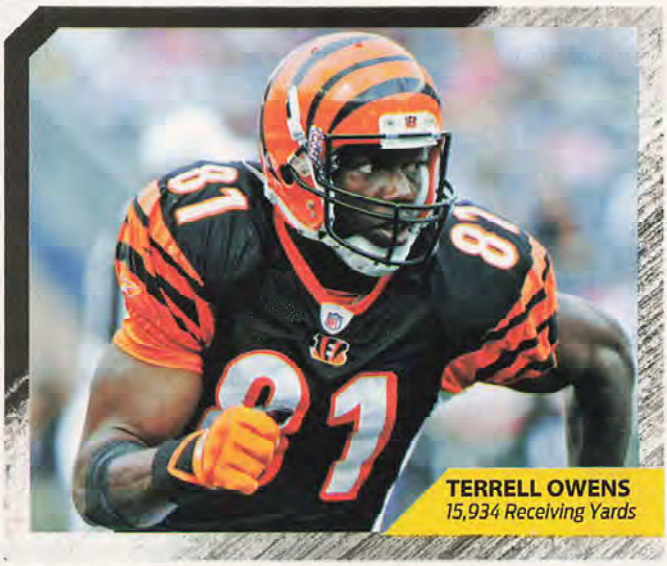
INTERCEPTIONS

Paul Krause	81
Emlen Tunnell	79
Rod Woodson	71
Dick "Night Train" Lane	68
Ken Riley	65
Ronnie Lott	63
DARREN SHARPER	63
Dave Brown	62
Dick LeBeau	62
Emmitt Thomas	58
Mel Blount	57
Bobby Boyd	57
Eugene Robinson	57
Johnny Robinson	57
Everson Walls	57
Lem Barney	56
Pat Fischer	56
Aeneas Williams	55
Eric Allen	54
Willie Brown	54
Darrell Green	54
ED REED	54
Ty Law	53
Deion Sanders	53
Jack Butler	52
Bobby Dillon	52
Jimmy Patton	52
Mel Renfro	52
Larry Wilson	52
Bobby Bryant	51
Donnie Shell	51
Terrell Buckley	50
Don Burroughs	50
Deron Cherry	50
John Harris	50
Yale Lary	50
Ken Houston	49
Jake Scott	49
Herb Adderley	48
CHAMP BAILEY	48
Dave Grayson	48
Richie Petitbon	48
Dave Waymer	48
Willie Wood	48
Ray Buchanan	47
Jimmy Johnson	47
Lemar Parrish	47
Troy Vincent	47
CHARLES WOODSON	47
Jack Christiansen	46
Goose Gonsoulin	46
Mike Haynes	46
Eddie Meador	46
Dave Whitsell	46

SACKS

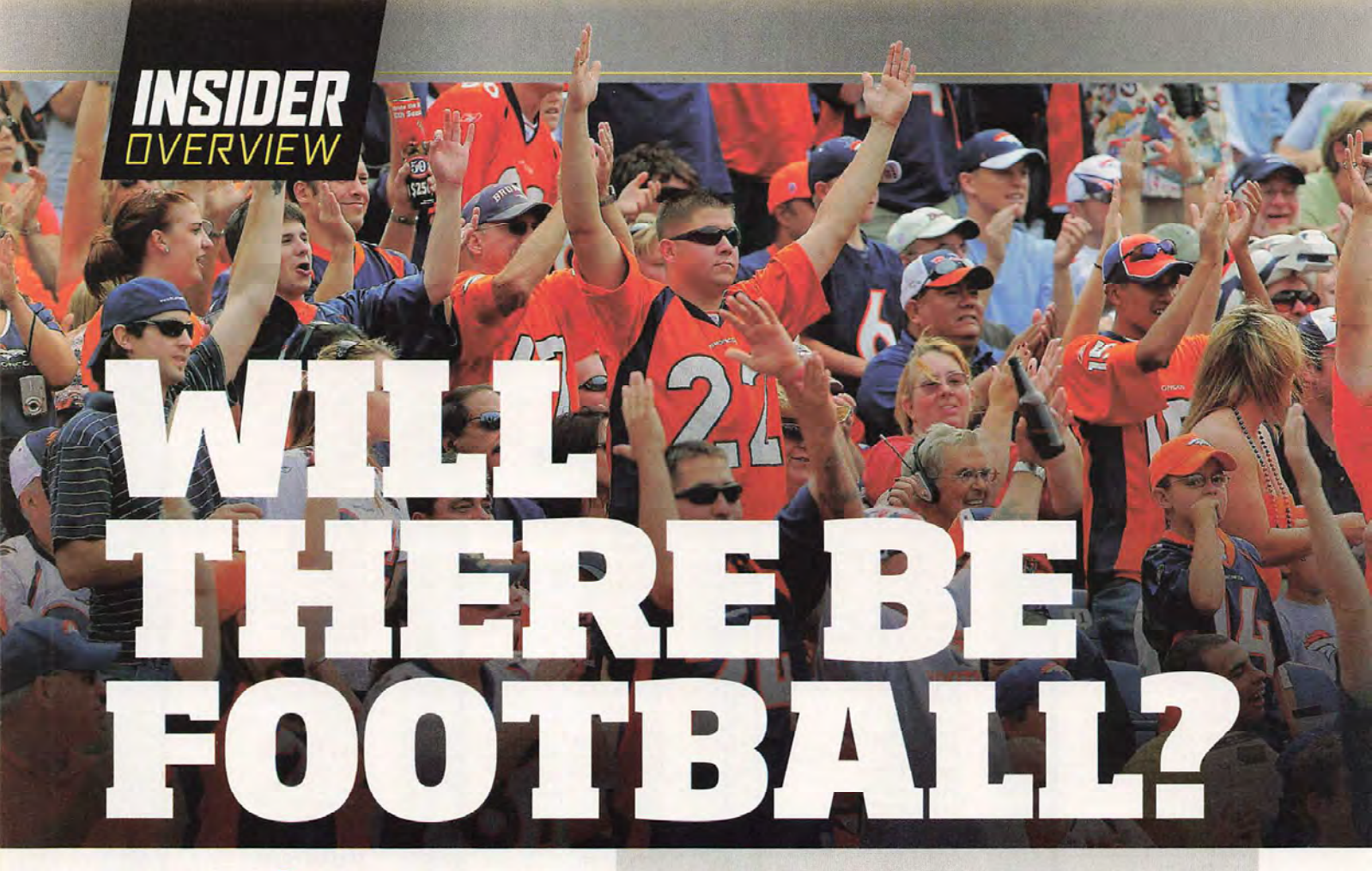
Bruce Smith	200.0
Reggie White	198.0
Kevin Greene	160.0
Chris Doleman	150.5
Michael Strahan	141.5
Richard Dent	137.5
John Randle	137.5
Leslie O'Neal	132.5
JASON TAYLOR	132.5
Lawrence Taylor	132.5
Rickey Jackson	128.0
Derrick Thomas	126.5
Simeon Rice	122.0
Clyde Simmons	121.5
Sean Jones	113.0
Greg Townsend	109.5
Pat Swilling	107.5
Trace Armstrong	106.0
Kevin Carter	104.5
Neil Smith	104.5
JOHN ABRAHAM	102.5
Jim Jeffcoat	102.5
William Fuller	100.5
Charles Haley	100.5
Andre Tippett	100.0
Simon Fletcher	97.5
Jacob Green	97.5
Dexter Manley	97.5
JOEY PORTER	97.0
Warren Sapp	96.5
Robert Porcher	95.5
Steve McMichael	95.0
DWIGHT FREENEY	94.0
Henry Thomas	93.5
TREVOR PRYCE	91.0
Bryant Young	89.5
Ken Harvey	89.0
JULIUS PEPPERS	89.0
Leonard Little	87.5
Willie McGinest	86.0
Greg Ellis	84.0
Howie Long	84.0
La'Roi Glover	83.5
Leonard Marshall	83.5
JARED ALLEN	83.0
Charles Mann	83.0
Patrick Kerney	82.5
Wayne Martin	82.5
Lee Williams	82.5
Tim Harris	81.0
Hugh Douglas	80.0
Jason Gildon	80.0
DeMARCUS WARE	80.0

—compiled by Matt McKenzie



TERRELL OWENS
15,934 Receiving Yards

ICON SMI



WILL THERE BE FOOTBALL?

our writers say ...

YES!

By Matt McKenzie *Assistant Editor*

As the lockout dragged into early May and no decision seemed imminent, the prospect of an abbreviated season—or none at all—grew larger by the day. It was hard to predict the outcome when this magazine went to press, but who better to ask than *Sporting News*' 32 team correspondents?

Faced with four questions involving the lockout, there is unanimous agreement that there will be a 2011 season. However, how long the season will be comes into question, as six writers believe there will be some regular-season games lost before the 2011 campaign begins.

As for the new collective bargaining agreement, the answer slightly favors the owners when asked which side has the advantage. And for when the CBA will be signed, the majority answer is split, with 11 writers voting for sometime in July and 11 others saying it won't be until the month of August.

SportingNews

NFL CORRESPONDENTS POLL

Will there be a 2011 season?

YES **32** NO **0**

Will there be any regular-season games lost?

When do you think a new collective bargaining agreement will be completed?

Before July 1	Aug. 1-Aug. 31
1	11
July 1-July 31	**After Sept. 1**
11	1

Once a new CBA is signed, who will come out with the advantage?

Players: 13
Owners: 18
No one: 1

**Three correspondents said the season would be delayed but the league would manage to squeeze in a full 16-game schedule*

DOUG PENSINGER / GETTY IMAGES

LABOR PAINS

Breaking down one rocky offseason

By Vinnie Iyer *Sporting News*

Because of the failure by the owners and players association to come to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement this spring, NFL fans have been treated to a steady diet of legalese. As the battle has gone from the negotiating table to the courts over the summer, here's a refresher on where both sides stand on the hot-button issues:

THE ISSUE
REVENUE-SHARING

THE BASICS

The NFL generates approximately $9 billion in total revenue. After $1 billion of that total goes to operating expenses under the preexisting CBA, the players get about 53 percent of the remaining $8 billion.

THE OWNERS WANT

They're looking to take about another $1 billion off the top before $7 billion is distributed, increasing what they will able to spend on infrastructure. Of course, more money for their operations means less money the players will have for salaries.

THE PLAYERS WANT

They would like to look at the owners' financial statements to see if the additional $1 billion is actually required, or just a way to put more money in the owners' coffers.

THE ISSUE
AN 18-GAME REGULAR SEASON

THE BASICS

There has been a strong push led by commissioner Roger Goodell to expand the current 16-game schedule by two games to further capitalize on the league's popularity.

THE OWNERS WANT

What Goodell wants. That's because the owners will get better gate receipts with an additional regular-season home game that counts, while also generating additional revenue from the league's television broadcast partners.

THE PLAYERS WANT

Already facing the rigors of a long regular season that leads to wear and tear over 17 weeks (and up to a month more for playoff-bound teams), they would like at least an abbreviated preseason slate (including training camp and exhibition games) in August to keep them from being overextended in January.

THE ISSUE
ROOKIE WAGE SCALE

THE BASICS

Last year's No. 1 overall draft pick, quarterback Sam Bradford, was signed by the Rams to a six-year, $78 million deal with a whopping $50 million of it guaranteed. In the wake of escalating salaries for rookies, a wage scale would limit their compensation to better correspond with them never having played a down in the NFL.

THE OWNERS WANT

In recent years, it has almost been a burden for the teams that hold high draft picks, because it requires a huge investment in an unknown quantity and can potentially lead to a vicious cycle if a team ends up overspending on draft busts. The owners would like some protection from that.

THE PLAYERS WANT

If it's done right, this is something to which the players association can agree upon. Teams having to pay considerably less money on unproven rookies would allow them to invest better money in proven players they would prefer to keep. If the money is cut down for rookies, they should also be behind shorter contracts that allow them to get paid market value if they produce at a high level.

THE ISSUE
THE FRANCHISE TAG AND UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENCY

THE BASICS

In the uncapped year of 2010, only players with six accrued seasons were unrestricted free agents. For the best of those players, the franchise tag in effect makes them restricted.

THE OWNERS WANT

They would like something similar to the current franchise tag system to stay in place in order to keep from letting their best players walk and use it as a tool to buy time to agree on a long-term contract the tagged players desire.

THE PLAYERS WANT

Although the franchise tag system has made many players rich over a series of one-year deals, the veteran stars on which it's used feel it defeats the purpose of being a true unrestricted free agent, where they control their worth and are actually "free" to sign with any other team.

THE ISSUE
BENEFITS FOR RETIRED PLAYERS

THE BASICS

Even though the owners and current players are most concerned with getting what they think is their respective fair share of the revenue pie, improving the current benefits system to help retired players deal with the lingering effects of playing such a physical game is still important.

THE OWNERS WANT

With the owners already looking for a bigger slice of total revenue, they feel it's more on the players to help take care of those who came before them.

THE PLAYERS WANT

Under NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith, there has been talk about improving the benefits system by establishing an adequate revenue fund. However, this solution won't work unless the owners are also on board.

(L TO R): KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE; ICON SMI

DYNASTY CALLING:

Reloaded Packers will repeat as Super Bowl champs

By Clifton Brown *Sporting News NFL writer*

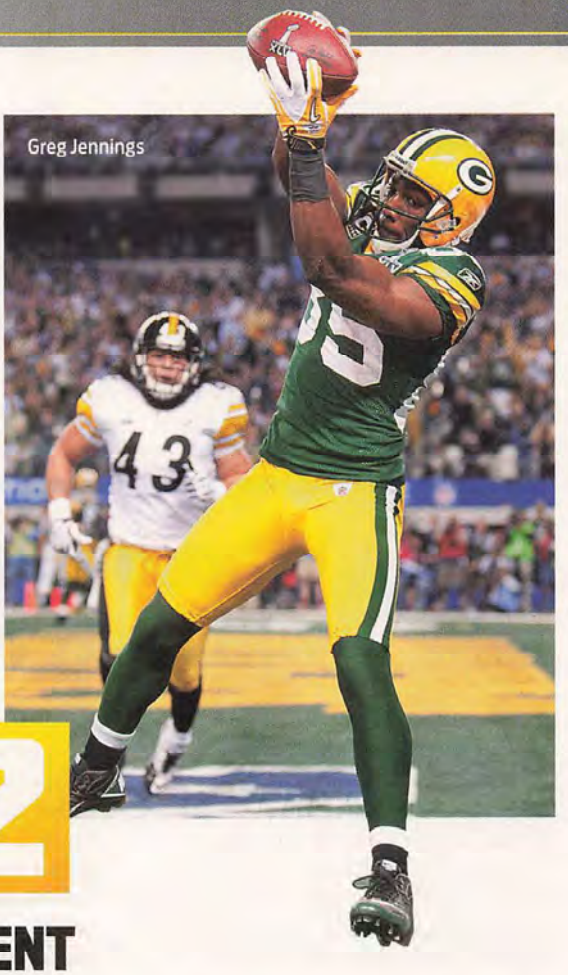
The Packers are not your typical Super Bowl champs. Here's something that makes them special: They are going to repeat.

This team is no one-year wonder. The playoff run that took Green Bay from wild-card weekend to the title was not the climax. Rather, it was a beginning. Get used to seeing the Packers in playoff games for years to come. They'll make it to Super Bowl 46 in Indianapolis, and are *Sporting News*' pick to win back-to-back championships by beating the Patriots.

"I feel like we're kind of reloading," said quarterback Aaron Rodgers the day after winning Super Bowl 45. "I think the core, the nucleus of this team, is intact to make runs like this for the next four or five years."

(L TO R): JOE ROBBINS, JONATHAN DANIEL, DOUG PENSINGER / GETTY IMAGES; BACKGROUND: KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

Why does *Sporting News* pick the Packers to repeat? Here are three reasons:

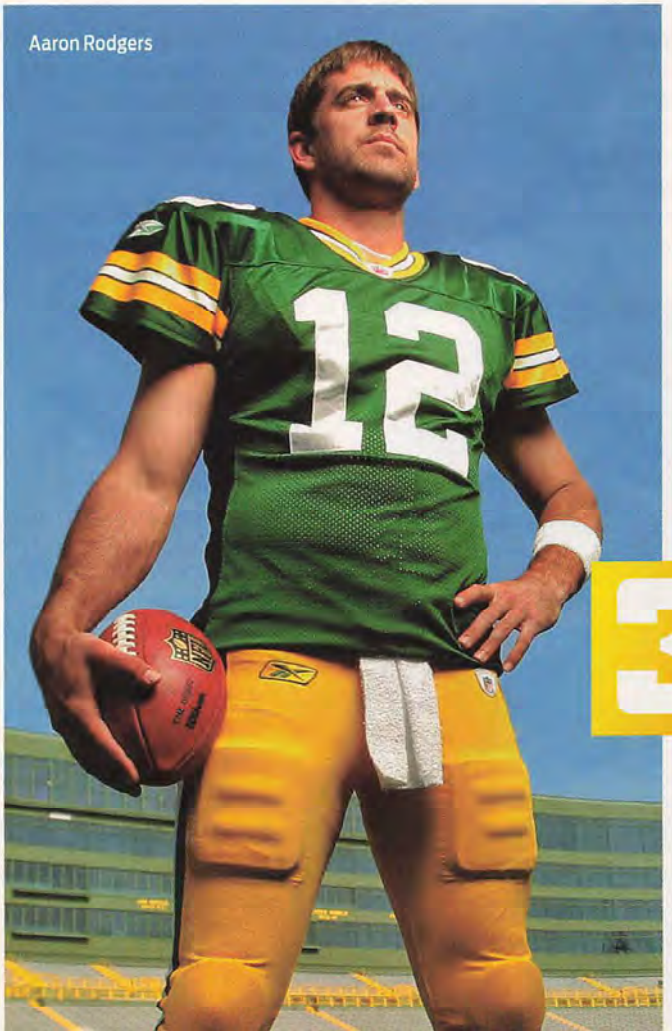

Greg Jennings

1 CONTINUITY

Championship teams are often broken up by defections among players and the coaching staff. Not these Packers. The nucleus returns intact, led by Rodgers, linebacker Clay Matthews, cornerback Charles Woodson, safety Nick Collins, left tackle Chad Clifton, nose tackle B.J. Raji and cornerback Tramon Williams.

Coach Mike McMcCarthy is a brilliant play-caller whose simpatico with Rodgers grows stronger each season. Dom Capers is one of the game's top defensive coordinators, and has the personnel to be creative with his 3-4 schemes.

Things the Packers can't control—such as injuries, the lockout and other potential distractions—don't affect them like they do lesser teams. Green Bay works together like an assembly-line crew. Each player knows his role, and how to prepare. McCarthy has his program in place now, the way Bill Belichick does with the Patriots and the way Andy Reid does with the Eagles. The Packers are set up to be perennial winners.


Aaron Rodgers

2 TALENT

The Packers ended the 2010 regular season with 15 players on injured reserve, including key components in tight end Jermichael Finley, running back Ryan Grant and offensive tackle Mark Tauscher. Both Woodson and wide receiver Donald Driver were injured during the Super Bowl, yet the Packers still prevailed.

General manager Ted Thompson has done a brilliant job assembling a deep and talented roster, and the Packers figure to have better luck with injuries this go-round. That will create competition for playing time, which should combat complacency.

Meanwhile, Thompson and the Packers enjoyed an excellent draft. Their first-round pick, tackle Derek Sherrod, should add depth to the offensive line. Randall Cobb is another wideout to add to a stocked group that includes Driver, Greg Jennings and Jordy Nelson, while third-round running back Alex Green could be a sleeper the way James Starks was for the Packers last season.

Green Bay could use another pass rusher to complement Matthews, but when you look at their roster, you don't see many weaknesses. You see players that other teams would love to have.

"I think we've done an excellent job of getting young players to play early," said McCarthy after the draft. "We believe getting young players to play early has been a strength of our coaching staff."

3 LEADERSHIP

Rodgers and McCarthy are not ones to rest on their laurels. Remember, Rodgers had to wait three seasons behind Brett Favre to become a starting quarterback. He has only been a starter for three seasons. Rodgers is just getting started, which is scary. And with a Super Bowl MVP trophy already on his résumé, Rodgers is now one of the league's true stars, a player that teammates naturally follow.

Just listen to what Rodgers said at his Super Bowl MVP press conference.

"I'm always looking for challenges," Rodgers said. "I think the challenge now goes to repeating. I'm looking forward to improving."

Matthews and Woodson bring that same leadership to the defensive side, and the intensity Matthews plays with rubs off on the entire unit.

TOP TO BOTTOM: ROB TRINGALI / GETTY IMAGES; JAY DROWNS / SN

It is always harder to repeat. The Packers will be a marked team, getting everyone's best shot. But that challenge will not faze them.

Who in the NFC is going to dethrone the Packers? The Falcons? The Bears? The Saints? The Eagles? Or maybe another team that did not make the playoffs last season?

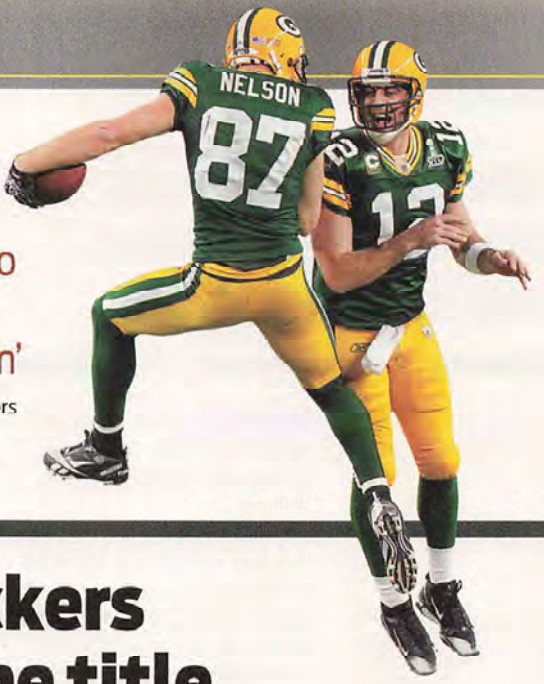
Sure, it could happen. But we don't expect it to.

"I'm pretty confident we're going to be a hungry football team," Rodgers says.

We agree. The Packers will be hungry enough to bring another title to back to Titletown.

'I'm pretty confident we're going to be a hungry football team'

—Aaron Rodgers



Whom the Packers will beat for the title

The Patriots have gone three seasons without winning a playoff game. Don't look for that trend to continue in 2011, as New England will be the AFC representative in Super Bowl 46.

In 2010, the Patriots were the AFC's best team during the regular season, but the Jets bested them in the divisional playoffs. That has been a problem recently. They have played their best football during the regular season, and other AFC teams (the Jets and Ravens) have played at a higher level than New England during the postseason.

That all changes this season. The Patriots have turned over their defense in recent years, integrating young, talented players into the lineup. Some have excelled, such as linebacker Jerod Mayo, cornerback Devin McCourty and safety Brandon Meriweather. Nose tackle Vince Wilfork is still in his prime and one of the best in the business. Cornerback Ras-I Dowling, the first pick in the second round this year, is expected to contribute right away.

Coach Bill Belichick surprised most people by using six of his nine draft picks on offense, when New England was expected to target defensive ends and outside linebackers. The Patriots' pass rush did not generate enough pressure in 2010, as opponents converted 47.1 percent of the time on third down.

But by concentrating on offense in the draft, Belichick sent a message that he believes linebackers Jermaine Cunningham and Rob Ninkovich are ready to step up. Meanwhile, the Patriots acquired three offensive pieces in the draft who could have immediate impact in offensive tackle Nate Solder and running backs Stevan Ridley and Shane Vereen.

We have gone this far without mentioning the most important Patriot of all, Tom Brady. His drive never wanes, and he is coming off one of his best seasons. If Ridley and Vereen help the running game, the passing attack led by Brady should be even more lethal. The Patriots led the NFL in scoring last season at 32.4 points a game. Not bad for a team that was supposed to be worried about its vertical attack after trading Randy Moss after Week 4 last season.

Tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez and wide receivers Deion Branch and Wes Welker will continue to give Brady plenty of options. The Patriots won't have trouble scoring, and could be more balanced if either Ridley or Vereen add punch to the running attack.

The AFC will be extremely competitive, as always. The Jets and Ravens have already proven they can handle the Patriots in the playoffs. And those are just two of at least a half-dozen teams that figure to be in the mix. However, Brady and Belichick know what it takes to reach the Super Bowl. This season, we think they'll figure out how to get back.

—*Clifton Brown*

Left to right: Tom Brady, Jerod Mayo and Wes Welker

CLOCKWISE: JASON O. WATSON / US PRESSWIRE; JIM ROGASH / GETTY IMAGES; JEROME DAVIS / ICON SMI; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

SN conversation with ...

Arian Foster

Two hundred fifty-six names were called during the 2009 NFL draft. Arian Foster was not one of them. The running back out of the University of Tennessee wound up signing as an undrafted rookie with Houston and spent the first half of the '09 season on the practice squad.

But Foster exploded onto the scene last year, beginning with Houston's season opener, when he rushed for a team-record 231 yards and three touchdowns in the Texans' win over Indianapolis. Foster finished the 2010 campaign with a league-leading 1,616 rushing yards (which also set a record for an undrafted rookie) and his first Pro Bowl berth.

In a conversation with *Sporting News* NFL writer Dennis Dillon, Foster talks about the humble beginning to his NFL career, the breakout season in 2010 and his advice for other undrafted players.

SN: After last year, what can you do for an encore?

Foster: I don't really look at it as an encore. When you do encores, you're trying to live up to everybody else's expectations. Then you play the game for the wrong reasons. I play football to help my team win games and to be the best running back I can. If you start looking at encores, you start straying away from what you're supposed to be doing.

SN: Why did you sign with the Texans?

Foster: Initially, we looked at the rosters. No disrespect to anyone who was there at the time, we just really felt like I would have the best opportunity to play in Houston. Also, I knew a little bit about the zone-blocking scheme that (former Broncos running back) Terrell Davis was in his whole career, and I was a big fan of his.

SN: Do you still have a chip on your shoulder because you weren't drafted?

Foster: I think it's always going to be there. I saw 23 (running backs) go before me, and there's no way 23 guys were better than me. Sometimes I look across the field at the team we're playing and it's like, "they had a chance to grab me and nobody wanted to do it." Sometimes I feel a little bit disrespected.

SN: How would you describe your style as a running back?

Foster: I'm a downhill runner, but I really don't let anybody get a clean shot on me. I kind of move like water; I kind of go with the resistance and move along with it but I still move forward.

SN: Who has had the biggest impact on your NFL career?

Foster: My coaching staff in Houston. You don't get a lot of chances as a free agent, and they took a chance on me. They believed in me at a certain point in time, and they gave me the opportunity. I'll always be grateful for that.

SN: Your brother, Abdul, a former track and field competitor at Florida A&M, is your personal trainer. What do you work on during the offseason?

Foster: Everything from track workouts to pull workouts to football drills. We look at my weaknesses and try to make them my strengths. One of my knocks coming out of college was my speed. We worked on my speed, and I think it improved drastically this past year.

SN: I hear you're a doting daddy. Could you talk about your daughter?

Foster: I've got a 20-month-old daughter named Zeniah. I love being a father. It gives you a reason to get up in the morning. She's a smart kid. Her mother's native tongue is German. Her mother will ask her something in German and she'll answer in English.

> "I SAW 23 (RUNNING BACKS) GO BEFORE ME, AND THERE'S **NO WAY 23 GUYS WERE BETTER THAN ME.**"

SN: You can quote almost every line from "Training Day." Why do you like that movie?

Foster: Not every line, but most of Denzel (Washington)'s parts. It's real rugged and raw. He's kind of crooked, and I'm not used to seeing him play that role. He usually plays really good roles, where he's the hero or the nice guy. In this one, he plays a dark character, but it's still great acting.

SN: What advice would you give to an undrafted rookie coming into the NFL?

Foster: You won't get a lot of reps during training camp, so you have to make sure every play that you're in there you have to make the most of the opportunity. Every single day you're on that field, you have to make your coaches say, "Did you see so-and-so today?" Every day, do something that makes them say, "Wow." And do not mess up (laughs).

SN: Is it harder to go out in public now without attracting attention?

Foster: It depends on where I am. In Houston, people know me. They love their football, so I get a lot of looks. It's all love, and I enjoy it. But if I'm in L.A. or in San Diego, for the most part I just blend in with everybody.

SN: What are your goals for this season?

Foster: I like to keep my goals personal at the beginning of the season. That way nobody can say, "Well, you're not on track for your goals."

PATRICK GREEN / ICON SMI

STOCK WATCH

Much like a roller-coaster ride, the NFL is marked every year by several new teams going in opposite directions. For the 2011 season, here are the teams we think should be ready to strap in, for better or worse:

RISING

LIONS

The Leos' horoscope reads a lot better now that general manager Martin Mayhew and coach Jim Schwartz guide the team. The strengths lie in an Ndamukong Suh-led defensive line and a budding prolific offense highlighted by Calvin Johnson, Jahvid Best and Brandon Pettigrew. Now that offense hopes for one thing: A healthy Matthew Stafford.

RAIDERS

After sweeping the AFC West last season, Oakland is a sleeper division contender. The team boasts a terrific running game and an underrated defensive line. There's also great optimism coach Hue Jackson will be a master motivator. The key is finding another acceptable quarterback solution.

BUCCANEERS

Last year's surprise 10-6 record wasn't a fluke. It all starts with Tampa Bay's exciting young quarterback, Josh Freeman. The defense should also be improved. Just like Detroit, there's trust on the sidelines (coach Raheem Morris) and upstairs (general manager Mark Dominik).

FALLING

BEARS

It's difficult to remember Chicago won the NFC North last season, since its division rival, Green Bay, ended up winning the Super Bowl as a wild-card team. Along with the Packers being stronger, the other North foes (Detroit and Minnesota) have improved. The Bears have been up and down since reaching the Super Bowl five years ago, and that trend will continue in 2011.

JAGUARS

David Garrard and Maurice Jones-Drew helped Jacksonville defy the odds and contend in the AFC South before the team settled for a .500 record last season despite being outscored by 66 points. The Jaguars are now taking the required steps to replace Garrard (read: Blaine Gabbert) and still have some work to do on defense. It will require a few steps back before marching ahead.

SEAHAWKS

After stealing the NFC West at 7-9 last season, Seattle enters the 2011 campaign caught in a strange limbo between being a division contender trying to repeat and a big rebuilding project. Plus, the two teams representing the Seahawks' biggest division competition, St. Louis and San Francisco, have significantly improved.

—Vinnie Iyer

Left to right: Detroit's Matthew Stafford, Oakland's Jacoby Ford and Seattle's Marshawn Lynch

BREAKOUT PLAYERS

Here's a look at five second- or third-year players *Sporting News* expects to have breakout seasons in 2011. We apologize to Sam Bradford, Ndamukong Suh and Buccaneers receiver Mike Williams. You guys broke out as rookies.

Josh Freeman

1 ERIC BERRY ▶ *S, CHIEFS*

The best is yet to come for Berry, even though he made the Pro Bowl as a rookie. He has great range, is a punishing and sure tackler and plays with emotion. Troy Polamalu and Ed Reed set the standard for today's generation of safeties, and they still have game left. But when they pass the torch, Berry will be ready to accept it.

2 CARLOS DUNLAP ▶ *DE, BENGALS*

Dunlap set the team's rookie record in 2010 with 9.5 sacks. His best work came late in the season and, as he improves his technique and gains more experience, Dunlap should become even more dominant as a pass rusher. Look for his name among the league's sack leaders at season's end.

3 JOSH FREEMAN ▶ *QB, BUCCANEERS*

Freeman improved dramatically in his second year, and did some of his best work in clutch situations. He has all the physical tools and is also a leader. He makes his teammates better and can handle everything that comes with being the face of Tampa Bay's franchise. It won't be long before his name is added to the current top-10 list of NFL quarterbacks.

4 DEVIN McCOURTY ▶ *CB, PATRIOTS*

He had seven interceptions as a rookie, and should be a fixture in the Patriots' defensive backfield for years. McCourty is an aggressive player, but doesn't take unnecessary risks. After a strong first-year campaign, McCourty's play should only get better in 2011.

5 BRANDON PETTIGREW ▶ *TE, LIONS*

After a knee injury cut his rookie season short, Pettigrew came back strong in 2010 with 71 catches for 722 yards and four touchdowns. His numbers will only get better if he and quarterback Matthew Stafford can stay healthy for a full season.

—Clifton Brown

CLOCKWISE: SCOTT CUNNINGHAM / GETTY IMAGES; ICON SMI; OTTO GREULE JR / GETTY IMAGES; KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

THE DRAFT

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012

Our War Room scouts give their early take on the 2012 draft with these 15 players who should be on teams' radars.

10 SENIORS TO WATCH

(in alphabetical order)

JAKE BEQUETTE
DE, Arkansas

Bequette is a strong, productive lineman at Arkansas. He can easily shed blocks to make tackles against the run. Bequette also uses his strength well to fight through pass blocks successfully and pressure the quarterback. Because he's not an elite athlete, Bequette will struggle to prove he's worth being a top-10 pick. But if he stays healthy, he'll go in the first round.

ZACH BROWN
OLB, North Carolina

Not much was expected from Brown before the 2010 season, as he was a backup at North Carolina. But then Marvin Austin, Robert Quinn and others were suspended for a violation of NCAA rules, and Brown had no choice but to step up. He became one of the Tar Heels' elite players with his instincts and playing speed. Brown gets to the ball quickly by chasing down plays in pursuit. Many were surprised when he didn't declare for the 2011 draft, so he should be the first linebacker taken this time around.

RYAN BROYLES
WR, Oklahoma

Broyles is an explosive and elusive receiver with the speed to get open and make big plays running after the catch. He can also bring in tough catches on off-target passes. However, he lacks the size of a typical wideout and may have durability issues in the NFL as a result. Still, his toughness makes up for any height and weight issues. Broyles has what it takes to be a top-15 selection next year.

JARED CRICK
DT, Nebraska

Crick is best suited as a defensive tackle in a 4-3 scheme at the next level, but he also has the look of an end in a 3-4 defense. He uses his long arms well to disengage from blockers and make plays at the point of attack. His quickness is so good for his size that he can bull-rush a guard and collapse the pocket for a loss of yards. Crick's sound technique allows him to drive ballcarriers to the ground with ease. If he plays well in 2011, Crick could lock up a spot in the top 15 of the 2012 draft.

JURON CRINER
WR, Arizona

Criner is best known for his footwork and playing speed. That's how he gets open to make clutch plays for Arizona. He runs sharp routes and has outstanding hand-eye coordination to catch the ball. Because he's a large target, he doesn't go down easily. Criner is already well known to NFL scouts, so he's a shoo-in to be a first-rounder in 2012.

MICHAEL EGNEW
TE, Missouri

Egnew stepped up his game in 2010, catching 90 passes for the Tigers. He is a tall, fluid tight end who often creates separation and catches tough passes in traffic. Egnew shows no fear going across the middle and taking a hard hit as well. He's not fast, but Egnew will be productive in the NFL, mainly due to his pass-catching ability. With a strong 2011 season, he could force his way into the first round.

MICHAEL FLOYD
WR, Notre Dame

With his athleticism, arm length, speed, body control, balance and catching ability, it's rare when Floyd doesn't impact a play. When he gets the ball, it's hard to bring him down due to his strength and toughness. However, Floyd's biggest issue is off the field, as Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly suspended him indefinitely after he was arrested for DUI in March. If he shapes up and Kelly allows him back on the field, it will help his draft status as a top-20 pick.

NICK FOLES
QB, Arizona

An under-the-radar prospect, Foles is tall and athletic and can already make all the NFL throws. He has had some injury problems but shines when healthy, so scouts are excited to see his improvement in 2011. If he makes a big move, Foles could end up challenging USC's Matt Barkley as the No. 2 quarterback in the 2012 draft.

JEFF FULLER
WR, Texas A&M

Fuller wants to follow in his father's footsteps as an NFL player. The son of the former San Francisco 49ers safety of the same name has the strength, footwork and athleticism to do it, too. He's tough catching passes in traffic and shedding tackles to gain yards after contact. Fuller also has an excellent vertical leap, which makes catching high passes seem easy. With hard work this season, he could move into the second round.

ANDREW LUCK
QB, Stanford

Luck looks the part of an NFL quarterback with his height and strong arm. He can make all the NFL throws and has a natural feel for the position. Luck also has excellent throwing mechanics, which enable him to get rid of the ball in a flash and with accuracy. He does not panic under pressure, often making good throws with defenders on him. He's expected to be the No. 1 draft pick in 2012 as long as he doesn't suffer a major injury this season.

5 JUNIORS TO WATCH

(in alphabetical order)

MATT BARKLEY
QB, USC

Barkley has been hyped as the next great Trojan QB ever since he arrived at USC and started playing as a true freshman. There have been some bumps along the way, but he has the physical tools and playmaking ability to be a first-round pick next year if he continues to improve this season. His quick release and strong arm help him make all the NFL throws with zip and accuracy. He's elusive enough to avoid sacks and can scramble out of the pocket when the pressure gets thick.

JUSTIN BLACKMON
WR, Oklahoma State

Blackmon's natural pass-catching ability sets him apart from other wideout prospects. He seems comfortable making off-target catches and then turns up the field to gain yards with ease. His speed makes him effective downfield, while his size makes him hard to tackle. However, Blackmon seems to lose concentration at times and drops the occasional ball. He also gets caught out of position at times and beaten in zone coverage. Still, he's a game-changer when his team needs one, and a likely top-five pick in 2012.

ALSHON JEFFERY
WR, South Carolina

Formerly one of the top high school recruits in the nation, the Gamecocks' wideout has performed as advertised as a collegian and has all the tools to be an elite game-changer in the NFL. He has excellent size, strength and quickness, which enable him to get separation down the field and shed tackles to gain yardage. He's also made a few circus catches during his collegiate career, so don't be surprised if scouts and pundits start comparing him to the No. 4 overall pick in 2011, Georgia's A.J. Green. Jeffery could follow in his former SEC rival's footsteps and go in the top five of the draft.

LaMICHAEL JAMES
RB, Oregon

Short running backs can always help their draft status by proving their durability. So it was a smart move when James decided to return to Oregon for another season of pounding behind the line. He is a quick, explosive tailback who can change direction in a flash and burst out of his cuts to gain separation from defenders. He's also adept at making tacklers whiff. He's likely to improve in 2011 and will be a first-round pick.

TRENT RICHARDSON
RB, Alabama

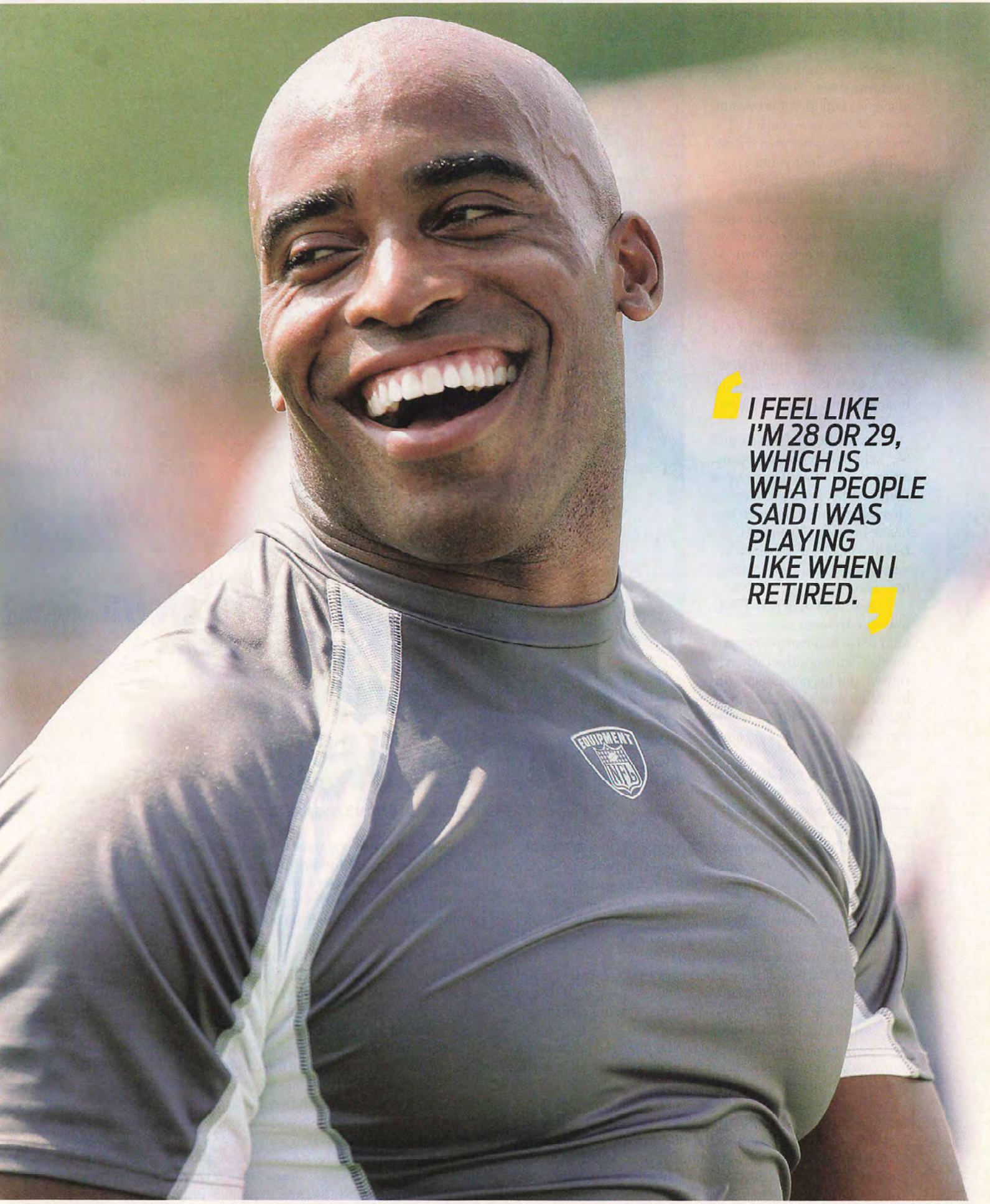
When Richardson shared the backfield with 2011 first-round draft pick Mark Ingram at Alabama, scouts believed Richardson had more physical talent than Ingram. Richardson is quick and agile, often making tacklers miss, and has the explosiveness to burst through the line to take plays the distance. He's not as tough as Ingram, but he has all the tools needed to be an elite NFL back in 2012.

THE COMEBACK KID?

Former All-Pro running back Tiki Barber has filed papers to end his retirement, but now at 36 and having been out of the NFL for five years, questions abound about how effective he'll be between the tackles.

BY PETE WILLIAMS

GEOFF BURKE / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: ANTHONY J CAJUSI / ICON SMI



I FEEL LIKE I'M 28 OR 29, WHICH IS WHAT PEOPLE SAID I WAS PLAYING LIKE WHEN I RETIRED.

When Tiki Barber and his longtime trainer, Joe Carini, published a fitness book in 2008, they figured the former New York Giants star's workout program would be of interest to weekend warriors and other men trying to hold on to their youth.

They didn't figure Barber would be dusting off those routines to come out of retirement and attempt to return as an effective every-down running back at the age of 36—something that's rarely been seen in NFL history.

But there was Barber in late January, reporting back to "House of Iron," Carini's New Jersey gym, for two-and-a-half-hour sessions of heavy lifting, six days a week.

"I don't feel like I just turned 36," said Barber one late spring afternoon after another session under Carini, a former state champion powerlifter who has bench-pressed 600 pounds. "I feel like I'm 28 or 29, which is what people said I was playing like when I retired."

Barber filed papers to come out of retirement in early March. He had two years left on his Giants contract when he retired, but his comeback will be with a new squad, as the team he played with his whole career has not expressed any interest.

"We wish Tiki nothing but the best, and when we are able to make the transaction, we will release him from our reserve/retired list," said Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon in a statement shortly following Barber's announcement to return.

> NOW YOU CAN TELL HOW BADLY HE WANTS IT. HE'S STRONGER THAN HE WAS SIX YEARS AGO ... HE'LL MAKE SOME NOISE.
>
> —Joe Carini, Tiki Barber's personal trainer

Barber's comeback attempt will be an interesting case study on the modern NFL. Nobody doubts that the league is as violent and physically demanding as it has ever been. On the other hand, today's players know more about functional conditioning, nutrition and recovery.

How will Barber, who escaped major injury while rushing for 10,449 yards over 10 seasons before retiring at 31, respond to what will be nearly a five-year layoff? Can he return successfully, as Deion Sanders did at 37 in 2004, playing two seasons after taking off three? Or does Barber have too many miles on the odometer from playing the most grueling position on the field?

Barber says he won't know for certain until he goes into the hole during his first NFL training camp, which will be his first since 2006. But he points out that a number of his fellow 36-year-olds have played continuously, including linebackers Ray Lewis and James Farrior, and Barber's twin brother, Ronde, the longtime Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback.

"Those guys are one reason I feel very confident I can do this," Barber says. "Nobody hits harder than Ray Lewis and he's still doing it. My twin brother, same age and physiology, is still doing it. Mentally, I know I'm not going to have a problem. Physically, I may be lagging a bit but I'm confident I can catch up quickly."

And an NFL camp can't be much tougher than dealing with Carini's torture sessions, which include dealing with "the yoke," a movable squat machine in which Barber essentially walks with 400 to 800 pounds on his back. The idea is to build the explosion for the initial step through a hole or tackle.

"For a running back, every play is a shock to the system," Carini says. "We're simulating the conditions he's going to have to withstand, and we go all out. We want to be able to sustain that kind of pounding as if he's going to play six quarters."

Barber typically would report to camp at 212 pounds, realizing that he'd lose a few pounds by October and finish the year around 208. So chiseled was Barber that after retiring, he initially found it difficult to lose even a few pounds. He eventually dropped down to 194 (just 10 pounds heavier than Ronde),

LEE S. WEISSMAN / CON SMI

and people who previously relied on the weight difference to tell the twins apart sometimes confused the two.

It took Carini only two months to help Barber put the weight back on, and the former University of Virginia star now believes he's in better shape, in part because of a yoga routine he began following during retirement that elongated his muscles and improved his quickness.

Like many NFL observers, Carini initially wondered if Barber was committed to returning. He saw how tired of football his client was four years ago after playing 10 seasons, the same number as Barry Sanders and one more than Jim Brown.

Unlike many pros, Barber had prepared for his next career by moonlighting in TV news as a player. Some mentioned him as a possible successor to Matt Lauer on "The Today Show." But his TV career never really took off, and Barber later went through a messy divorce that played out in the New York tabloids.

"I told him up front that if I didn't think he had anything left, we weren't going to do this," Carini says. "I knew he lost interest in the game four years ago but it wasn't because of injuries. There's never been anything wrong with him physically.

"Now you can tell how badly he wants it. He's stronger than he was six years ago. He's not going to replace an Adrian Peterson, but if he gets the right team, he'll make some noise."

In other sports, Michael Jordan and Mario Lemieux came back in their late 30s after long layoffs and managed to ration their minutes to ensure productivity. Barber says he's preparing to be a featured back but is open to other roles.

"I'm going to be whatever role I need to be," he says. "It's not a one-guy-does-everything, Marshall Faulk league anymore and I know that. I'm sure I can find a role in whatever situation presents itself."

It's difficult to find an appropriate comparison for Barber's comeback attempt. Deion Sanders followed a similar timetable, but was a defensive back known for blanket coverage and avoiding hits.

Among the NFL's top 20 career rushers (Barber ranks 22nd), only two played beyond their 36th birthdays. Marcus Allen rushed for 830 yards and nine touchdowns in 1996 at age 36 and played one more season (505 yards, 9 TDs). John Riggins played his final year at 36 (677, 8).

Riggins had a short mid-career retirement, sitting out the 1980 campaign in a contract dispute with the Redskins following back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. The then-32-year-old came back under new coach Joe Gibbs in 1981 and rushed for just 714 yards in a reserve role. A strike shortened the following season to eight games, but Riggins then had the two best years of his career at ages 34 and 35.

Barber points out that he had a similar trajectory, rushing for nearly as many yards the last three years of his career (5,040) as he did the first seven (5,409).

"By being out of the game he's been able to overcome years of life in the NFL and recover," says Mark Verstegen, who has worked with hundreds of NFL players as the founder and president of Athletes' Performance training center and as the NFLPA's director of player performance. "You can restore a lot of those movement patterns back to where he was 15 years ago."

Barber can also draw inspiration from another Virginian who staged an unlikely comeback. Michael Vick spent most of his two seasons away from the NFL incarcerated and primarily served as a backup in 2009 before enjoying the best year of his career last season with the Philadelphia Eagles.

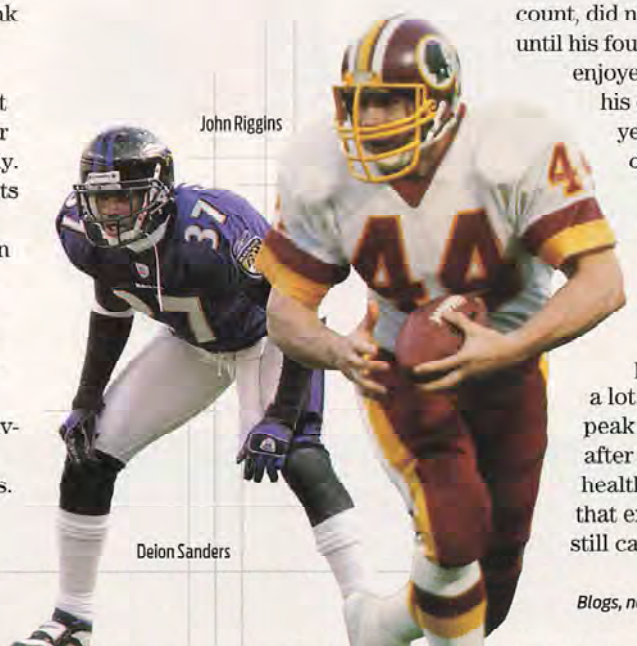
Vick, however, was just 30 last year and plays quarterback, albeit a version that runs the ball frequently.

"Mike had some hard miles on him too," says Ken Croner, who served as the Eagles' assistant strength and conditioning coach last season and has previously worked with perennial retiree Brett Favre in the offseason. "But he worked hard in the weight room and, by all accounts, Tiki does too.

"The key for Tiki is to get that explosive power back. He needs quick, short bursts to drive hard. His lower-body strength is vital but also how he uses that strength to get in position and get that explosion, and that's something that's lost over time."

It's worth noting that Barber, like a young baseball pitcher on an innings count, did not become a featured back until his fourth season (2000) and enjoyed the best two seasons of his career prior to retiring. Four years off could have frozen the odometer.

"I got better as I got older," Barber says. "That's because (playing) running back is a product of how many hits you've taken. Early in my career I didn't play a lot and didn't get hit a lot. I got stronger and hit my peak later in my career, and now, after having a rest and still feeling healthy and strong and having that experience, I'm confident I still can play at a high level."

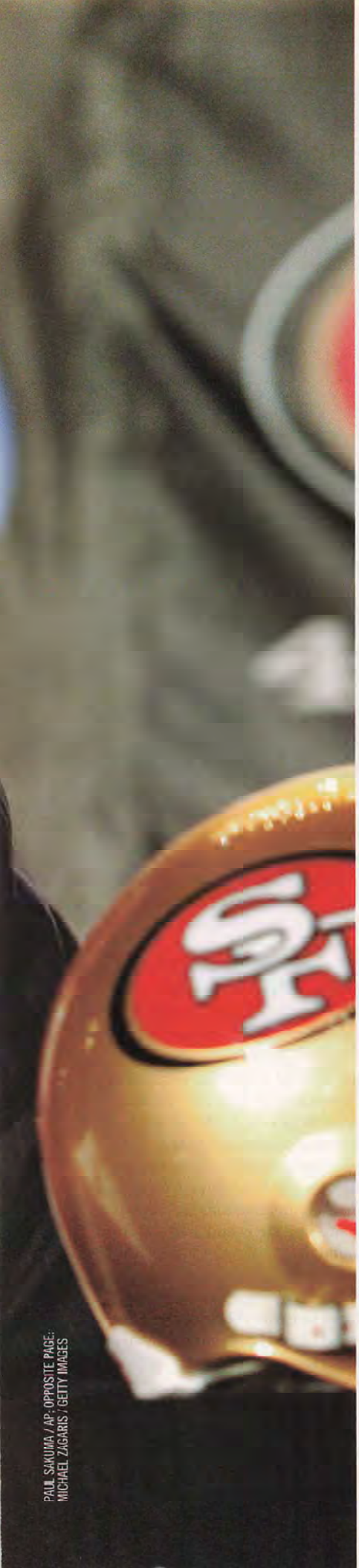


John Riggins

Deion Sanders

CLOCKWISE: UPI / NEWSCOM; GEORGE LONG / GETTY IMAGES; LARRY FRENCH / GETTY IMAGES

Jim Harbaugh
Head Coach



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SN conversation with ...

Jim Harbaugh

By Matt Barrows

The NFL didn't make it easy on Jim Harbaugh. New head coaches usually are allotted extra offseason practices to familiarize themselves with their players and start implementing their offensive and defensive systems. The lockout, however, has cut into that valuable learning period, forcing Harbaugh and his staff to teach on the fly whenever the issue is resolved.

Harbaugh was hired by the 49ers to be their head coach in early January, just days after completing a school-record 12-1 season at Stanford that included an Orange Bowl victory over Virginia Tech—the Cardinal's first BCS bowl win in program history.

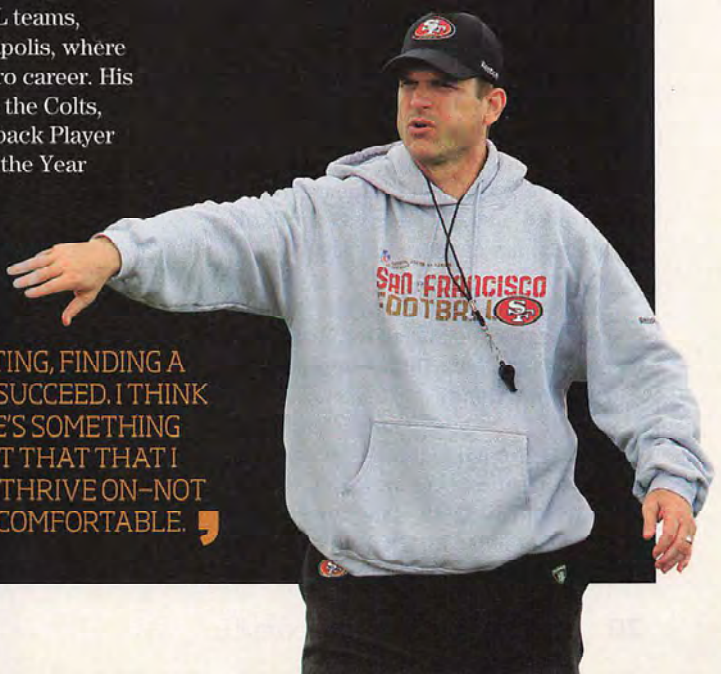
The 47-year-old amassed a 29-24 record at Stanford and, before that, was 29-6 in his first head-coaching job, at San Diego of the Football Championship Subdivision. It was with the Toreros that Harbaugh coached alongside his father, Jack (who was USD's running backs coach and before that the longtime head coach at Western Kentucky).

His father was just one of Harbaugh's influences, as he was an All-America quarterback at Michigan under legendary coach Bo Schembechler. The 26th overall pick of the 1987 NFL draft, Harbaugh went on to play for six different NFL teams, including Chicago and Indianapolis, where he spent most of his 15-year pro career. His finest season was in 1995 with the Colts, when he was the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year and AFC Player of the Year while finishing second to Brett Favre in NFL MVP voting.

Following his quick ascension at Stanford, Harbaugh was arguably the hottest coaching candidate this offseason, in both college and the pros. He turned down an offer to coach at his alma mater and was also reportedly linked to the Dolphins' vacancy before agreeing to a five-year, $25 million contract with San Francisco.

And the 49ers' 2011 schedule is littered with coaches who would like nothing better than to hand the NFL rookie head coach a stinging defeat, beginning with the Sept. 11 opener against former Pac-10 (now Pac-12) rival Pete Carroll and the Seahawks. Then on Thanksgiving night, Harbaugh will compete against a rival he's had since he was a boy—his older brother, John, the head coach of the Ravens.

Harbaugh insists he is just the right guy to handle the tasks at hand, and spoke with *Sporting News* correspondent and *Sacramento Bee* writer Matt Barrows about what he learned from his bloodlines about coaching, the thought about going up against his brother for the first time and why the West Coast offense is a good fit for the 49ers.



"ADAPTING, FINDING A WAY TO SUCCEED. I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT THAT I REALLY THRIVE ON—NOT BEING COMFORTABLE."

SN: Do you remember when you realized you wanted to become a coach?

Harbaugh: Yes. From the time I was 5 or 6. My earliest first memories—I knew I wanted to play (football) for as long as I could and then get into coaching. Because my dad was a coach, I'm sure that had a lot to do with it.

SN: Did you follow your dad around, mimic what he did?

Harbaugh: Oh, yeah. Mimicked, watched practice, could hot-splice a 16-millimeter tape when I was 7. His tape would break and he'd give me the can of film and tell me to splice it back together. (I) knew the difference between a three-deep coverage and a two-deep at a fairly young age.

SN: Knowing that, did you go through your playing career trying to pick up as much information as possible so that you could use it in coaching?

Harbaugh: Yes. You know, I really felt like I was doing that as a player. But there could have (been) more. There was so much more I could have been doing as a player, understanding the game. Sometimes you don't know what you don't know. Just the fact that watching 10 hours of film is better than a couple. There's always something to learn.

SN: What's the most lasting lesson your dad taught you?

Harbaugh: Thousands of things. Never lie, never cheat, never steal. Also, another great one is, every time you leave your house, make sure you have your wallet, your keys, your cell phone and your wedding ring. And everything else takes care of itself. (laughs)

I never—me and my brother—we never had stories read to us like fairy tales or "The Three Little Pigs" or things like that. He would always tell us sports stories, tell us about Willie Mays being the greatest baseball player of all time. Wally Pipp—we knew who that was. Knute Rockne, the Four Horsemen … there was always a sports story involved, usually baseball, football, boxing. It was more like that.

SN: What about some of the famous coaches you've played for, Bo Schembechler and Mike Ditka—what did you take from them?

Harbaugh: Many things. I could talk about it for a long time. I've always had a great respect for teachers and coaches. My dad and mom were both a teacher and a coach. And I've always been blessed to have great teachers, some of the living legends and greatest legends of the sport—Bo Schembechler and Mike Ditka, Lindy Infante, Ted Marchibroda, Al Davis. I got to know Bill Walsh. Everywhere I turned, I kept running into a phenomenal coach.

Jim Harbaugh had a 15-year pro career as a quarterback, including stops in Chicago (top, with coach Mike Ditka) and Indianapolis (bottom), where in 1995 he was the AFC Player of the Year.

> "EVERYWHERE I TURNED, I KEPT RUNNING INTO A PHENOMENAL COACH."

SN: You started out at the bottom—offensive quality control—when you joined the Raiders' coaching staff in 2002. How did that experience help?

Harbaugh: I didn't realize how hard coaches worked. I felt like, as a player you're the rock star and the coach is the roadie. Which is in a lot of ways true. It was an education in how to be a coach—the details you have to have, the research, all the technical aspects of the game. To me, that was the way to do it—not missing steps and learning from the ground up.

SN: How did growing up and moving from town to town—12 before you graduated high school—prepare you for this offseason?

Harbaugh: I think it's the feeling of being in uncharted waters and just feeling comfortable in that, liking the challenge in that. Adapting, finding a way to succeed. I think there's something about that that I really thrive on—not being comfortable.

TOP TO BOTTOM: JONATHAN DANIEL / GETTY IMAGES; GEORGE GOJKOVICH / GETTY IMAGES

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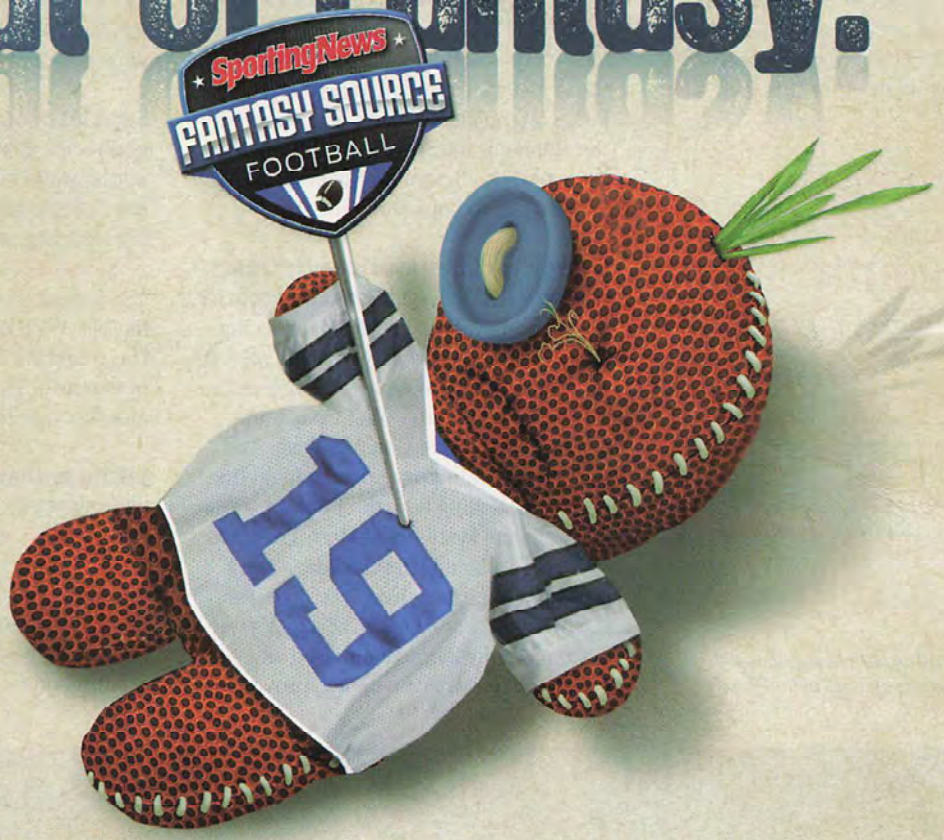

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SN: Do you end up talking to your brother more now than you did when you were a college coach?

Harbaugh: I see him more at some of the NFL functions like the Combine and the NFL owners meeting. I probably talk to him about the same amount. It's more coded now, so there's less information going back and forth.

SN: You don't use him as a resource?

Harbaugh: It's more general and less specific. We're at a point where we know we play each other this year.

> "I PROBABLY TALK TO HIM ABOUT THE SAME AMOUNT. IT'S MORE CODED NOW, SO THERE'S LESS INFORMATION GOING BACK AND FORTH."
>
> *—Jim Harbaugh on his conversations with brother John, head coach of the Ravens*

SN: Is it going to be awkward when you play each other on Thanksgiving? What are your parents going to do?

Harbaugh: The only thing they've mentioned is, I've heard my dad say he's not going to the game, he's not going to watch the game. He's going to be off on a walk—a three-hour walk. That may or may not be what he's doing.

My mom gets very worked up. She's fiercely loyal, fiercely competitive. Fierce is the only way to describe her. She's a fan—very emotional when she watches those games. I've many times heard her. I'd be on the sideline and hear her up in the stands. It may be the best thing for them both not to watch the game. Maybe my dad's onto something there.

SN: You've played in so many offenses, why go with the West Coast as a coach?

Harbaugh: Well, I realized it was my favorite offense as a player when I played for Lindy Infante as a player. Different terminology than the West Coast, but it really was a West Coast offense. And that's the terminology I used when I first got into coaching with the Raiders, the Bill Callahan system and Marc Trestman's system. (Callahan was Oakland's head coach at that time while Trestman was the offensive coordinator.) So that's the system I really learned and used as a coach. So that was a winning, proven system that I felt was the best system as a player and a coach.

SN: How would you say your West Coast is different than the one Bill Walsh was running 25 years ago (as coach of the 49ers)?

Harbaugh: The West Coast has the ability to be very broad and to take advantage of what your players can do best. Plus it evolves. It's evolved from '85 to 2011 in a lot of ways. But principle-wise, it's very similar. The principles are the same. How you're dressing it up is different.

SN: A lot of 49ers fans are concerned you're not going to have a lot of time to implement this offense in an abbreviated offseason. Do you think it will be a big learning curve for your players?

Harbaugh: There's a learning curve. The goal will be to make it learnable and likable. We'll be better one month after Day 1 and we'll be better six months after one month. We'll be better 12 months after six months. So there's a curve.

SN: Do you have a sense of how long it will take to install it?

Harbaugh: No. But we do have a plan if it's 10 days before the first game, a month before the first game, two months before the first game, three months before the first game. We have different contingencies.

Brothers and now together as NFL coaches, Jim (left) and John (right) will square off on Thanksgiving night as the 49ers take on the Ravens in what is being dubbed the inaugural "Harbaugh Bowl."

BEN LIEBENBERG / AP

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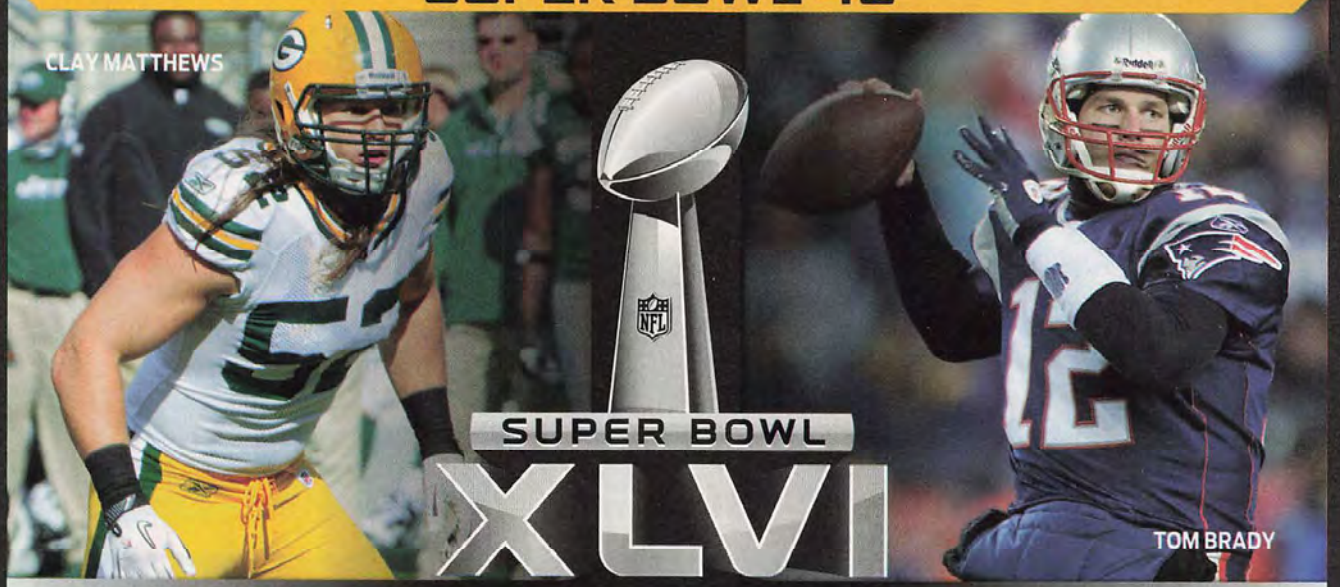

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AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

New England Patriots
over
Baltimore Ravens

WILD-CARD GAMES

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over
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New York Jets
over
Indianapolis Colts

DIVISIONAL GAMES

New England Patriots
over
New York Jets

Baltimore Ravens
over
Pittsburgh Steelers

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Green Bay Packers
over
New York Giants

WILD-CARD GAMES

New York Giants
over
San Francisco 49ers

Atlanta Falcons
over
Tampa Bay Buccaneers

DIVISIONAL GAMES

New York Giants
over
Philadelphia Eagles

Green Bay Packers
over
Atlanta Falcons

AFC

EAST

1. New England Patriots PG. 28
2. N.Y. Jets* PG. 34
3. Miami Dolphins PG. 40
4. Buffalo Bills PG. 46

SOUTH

1. Indianapolis Colts PG. 76
2. Houston Texans PG. 82
3. Tennessee Titans PG. 88
4. Jacksonville Jaguars PG. 94

NORTH

1. Baltimore Ravens PG. 52
2. Pittsburgh Steelers* PG. 58
3. Cincinnati Bengals PG. 64
4. Cleveland Browns PG. 70

WEST

1. San Diego Chargers PG. 100
2. Oakland Raiders PG. 106
3. Kansas City Chiefs PG. 112
4. Denver Broncos PG. 118

* Indicates wild card

NFC

EAST

1. Philadelphia Eagles PG. 126
2. N.Y. Giants* PG. 132
3. Dallas Cowboys PG. 138
4. Washington Redskins PG. 144

SOUTH

1. Atlanta Falcons PG. 174
2. Tampa Bay Buccaneers* PG. 180
3. New Orleans Saints PG. 186
4. Carolina Panthers PG. 192

NORTH

1. Green Bay Packers PG. 150
2. Detroit Lions PG. 156
3. Chicago Bears PG. 162
4. Minnesota Vikings PG. 168

WEST

1. San Francisco 49ers PG. 198
2. St. Louis Rams PG. 204
3. Seattle Seahawks PG. 210
4. Arizona Cardinals PG. 216

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Inset: Cam Newton, Panthers

REGION 7 »
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REGION 8 »
Brandon Marshall, Dolphins
and Mike Williams, Buccaneers
Inset: Marcedes Lewis,
Jaguars

REGION 9 »
Peyton Manning, Colts
Inset: Peyton Hillis, Browns
Inset: Marc Mariani, Titans

REGION 10 »
Jay Cutler, Bears
Inset: Ndamukong Suh, Lions

REGION 11 »
Aaron Rodgers and
Clay Matthews, Packers
Inset: Christian Ponder,
Vikings

REGION 12 »
Miles Austin, Cowboys and
Andre Johnson, Texans

REGION 13 »
Matt Cassel, Chiefs and
Sam Bradford, Rams

REGION 14 »
Kyle Orton and Tim Tebow
Inset: John Fox

REGION 15 »
Marshawn Lynch, Seahawks

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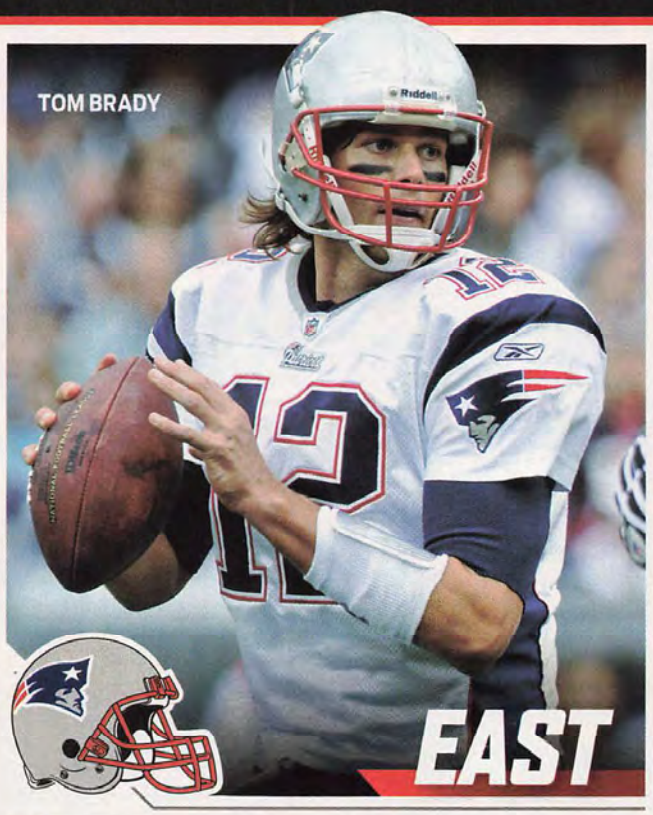


1 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (13-3)

Bill Belichick has an exciting wave of young talent on defense and offense that will keep his team near the top of the AFC standings. It also helps that Tom Brady continues to not show his age (he'll be 34 in August) and should be healthy enough to deliver as usual.

2 N.Y. JETS (10-6)

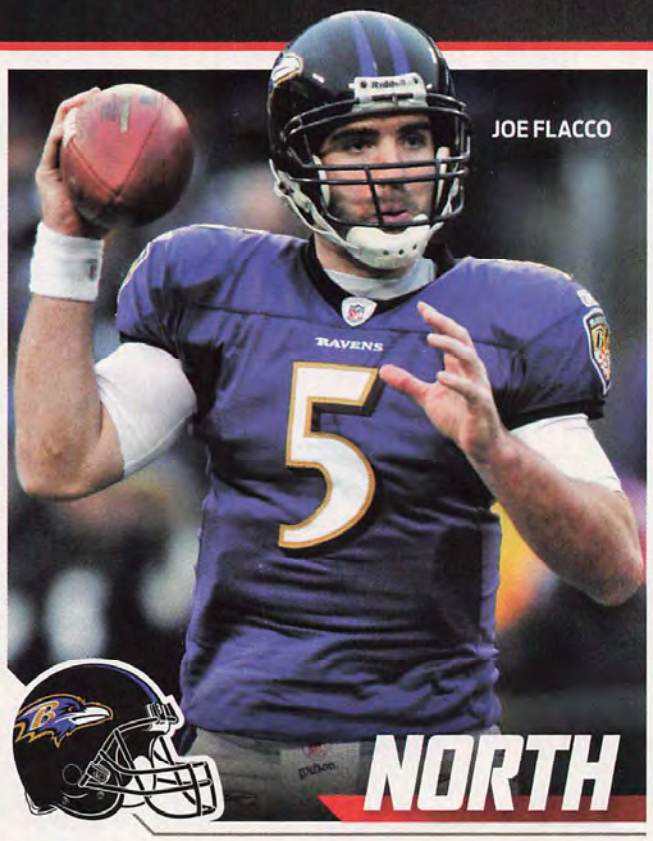
It doesn't matter where the Jets finish in the regular season. They've proved under Rex Ryan that, as long as they get in the playoffs, they're a threat to win the AFC. Look for them to be steadier in Mark Sanchez's third year.

3 MIAMI DOLPHINS (5-11)

Miami has put together a good defense with a strong front seven, including Cameron Wake and Paul Soliai. The offense, however, is going through a major overhaul with wholesale changes in store at running back and quarterback.

4 BUFFALO BILLS (4-12)

Ryan Fitzpatrick will keep the Bills competitive in games against lesser foes, but they still lack the punch to hang with the expected heavyweights in the division. Adding Marcell Dareus is a good start, however.



1 BALTIMORE RAVENS (13-3)

Every year, the Ravens come a little closer to getting to their first Super Bowl since 2000. It's on Ray Rice and the offense to get them there soon, because the window is starting to close on Ray Lewis and the rest of Baltimore's defense.

2 PITTSBURGH STEELERS (12-4)

The Steelers have been the big obstacle in Baltimore's way, but they also need to worry about some defensive aging. For now, Pittsburgh remains fine on defense, and having Ben Roethlisberger for a full season will be big.

3 CINCINNATI BENGALS (7-9)

They have a favorable schedule that will allow them to rebound, as the Bengals have underrated young talent all around. The big question is how adequate they can be at quarterback moving on from Carson Palmer.

4 CLEVELAND BROWNS (5-11)

There's much to like about the offensive core of Colt McCoy, Peyton Hillis and Joe Thomas, and new coach Pat Shurmur will know what to do with it. The defense, however, remains a big liability in this tough division.

L TO R: ICON SMI; LARRY FRENCH / GETTY IMAGES

WILD-CARD GAMES

STEELERS OVER CHARGERS

JETS OVER COLTS

DIVISIONAL GAMES

PATRIOTS OVER JETS

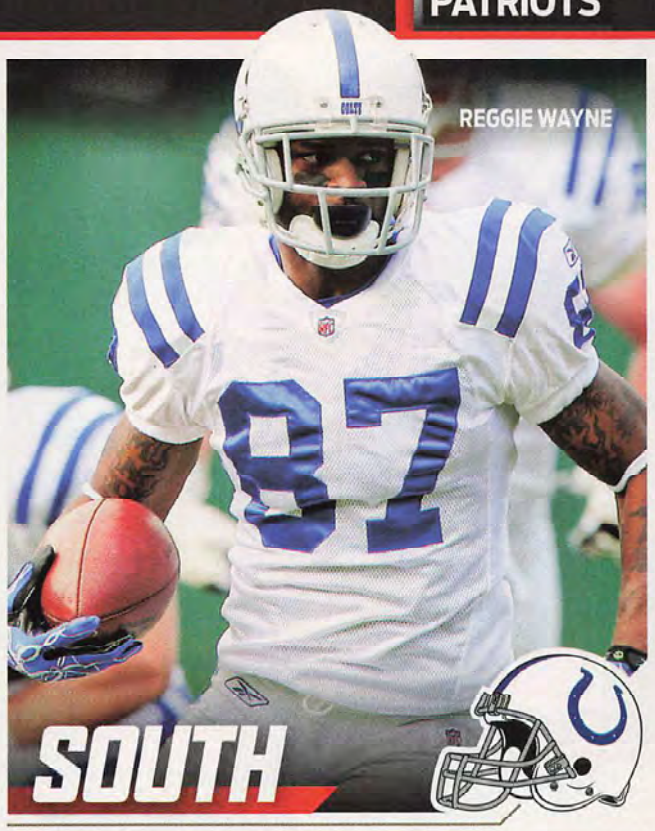
RAVENS OVER STEELERS

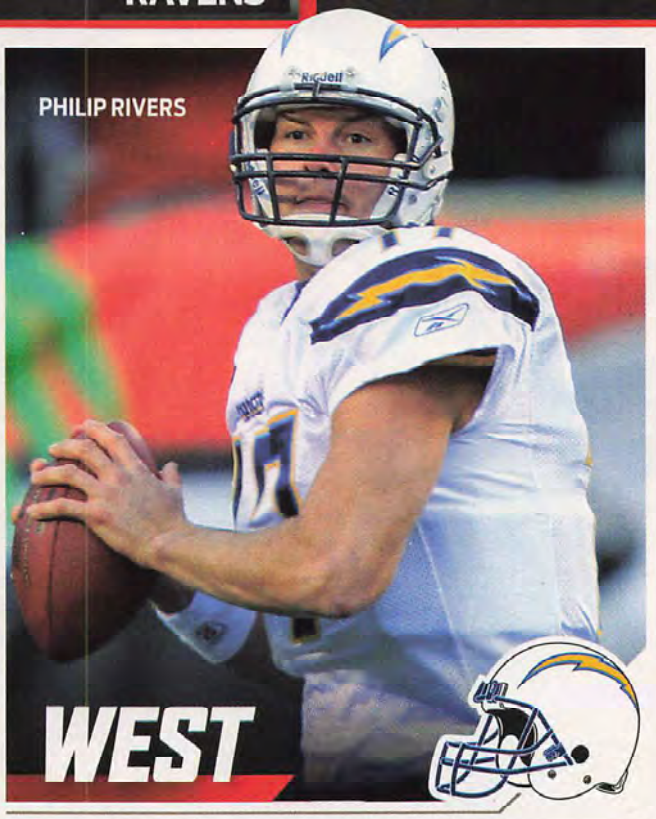
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

PATRIOTS OVER RAVENS

SUPER BOWL 46

PACKERS OVER PATRIOTS





1 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (12-4)

Just having Peyton Manning back is enough to make the Colts the AFC South favorite, but now they have a stronger offensive line to protect him, along with enough hungry players to make themselves respectable enough on defense.

2 HOUSTON TEXANS (8-8)

There's nothing wrong with their dazzling triplets on offense: Matt Schaub, Arian Foster and Andre Johnson. Although Houston's defense will be improved in a 3-4 under Wade Phillips, it's unfair to expect a one-offseason fix.

3 TENNESSEE TITANS (6-10)

Jeff Fisher's coaching allowed Tennessee to overcome some shortcomings, and it's unknown if successor Mike Munchak can work some of the same magic. There's talent in Chris Johnson and the defense, but QB is a huge void.

4 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (5-11)

David Garrard was the main component holding them together as an 8-8 squad last season. As they continue to retool their defense and potentially replace Garrard with Blaine Gabbert, expect a three-game slide.

1 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (10-6)

San Diego should rebound to take back the division with Philip Rivers and the league's top passing offense. But 10 wins seems to be the ceiling for this team, as there are significant defensive questions in the post-Ron Rivera era.

2 OAKLAND RAIDERS (9-7)

There's something about the confidence of Hue Jackson that fits with the personality of this team, so don't sleep on the Ralders. They'll linger around the wild-card hunt for a while before a late fade.

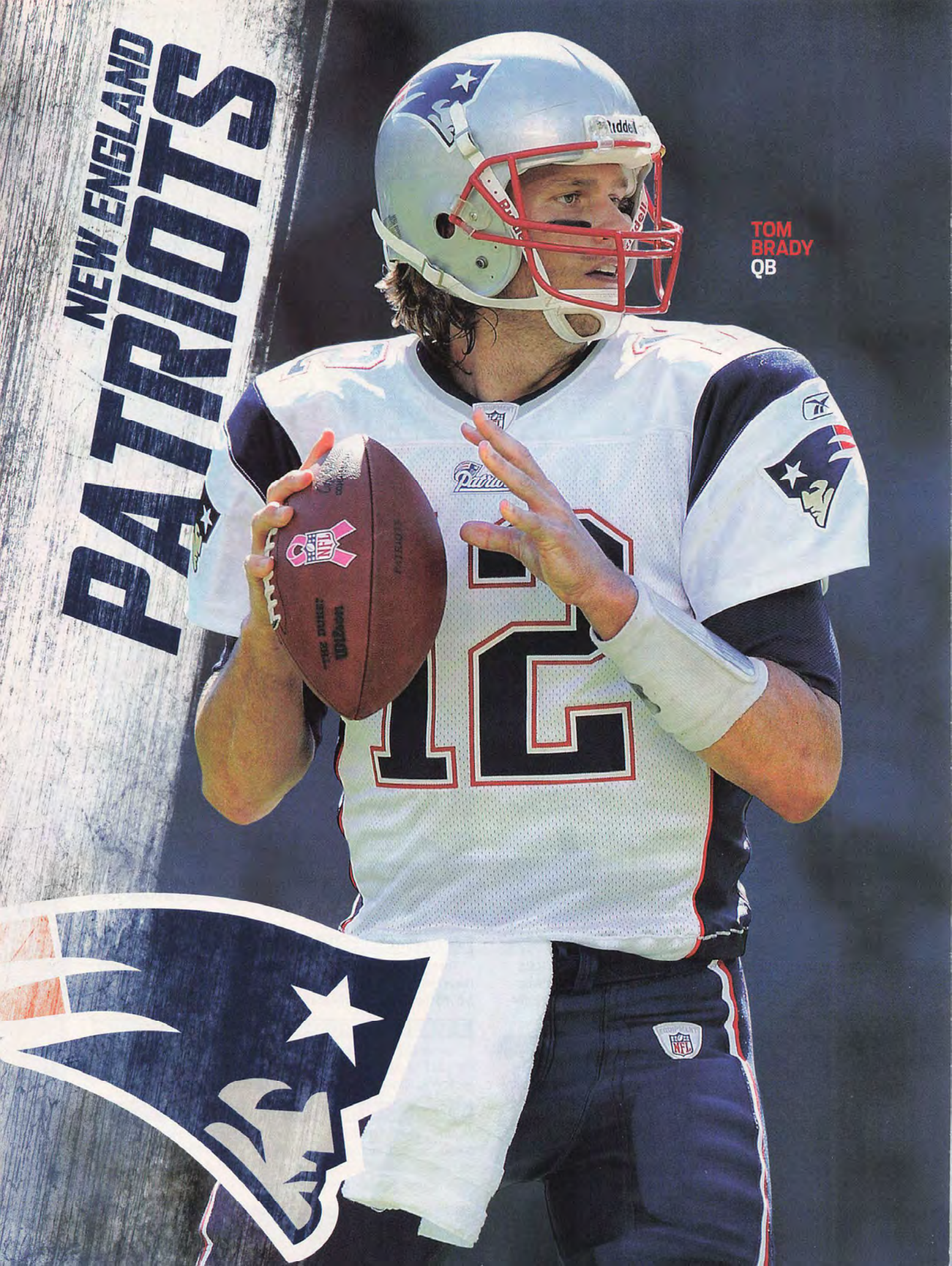
3 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (7-9)

Kansas City might lose a few games in the standings with a more difficult first-place schedule, but that doesn't mean the team won't keep improving. After a hiccup this season, expect bigger things in 2012.

4 DENVER BRONCOS (4-12)

Although Tim Tebow showed great promise late last season, it's unclear how he'll fare under a new coaching staff, or if he'll even win the starting job. The Broncos added some defensive help, but still have big holes against the run in a run-heavy division.

LT0 R.: TONY MEDINA / ICON SMI; JOHN SOMMERS II / ICON SMI


NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS
TOM
BRADY
QB

Opportunity knocking again, but can Pats perform better in postseason?

By Ian R. Rapoport *Boston Herald*

A productive 2010 season for New England ended with a thud in the playoffs. The Patriots' loss to the Jets ruined their Super Bowl dreams, making a 14-2 regular season moot.

Coach Bill Belichick's response to the progress made was a more telling reaction than that of his players.

"It was good," said Belichick, spitting the words out with his lips pursed and heart heavy.

The thought of unfinished business is strong for this year's squad, with New England's defenders a year older and quarterback Tom Brady salivating over the prospects of his first Super Bowl ring since February 2005. While Brady's prime years keep ticking, the Pats have a perfect opportunity in 2011.

OFFENSE

The most promising sign for the Patriots' offense had nothing to do with Brady. Rather, it was a physical offensive line helping lead BenJarvus Green-Ellis to a 1,000-yard season.

With an in-your-face presence, offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien is taking pressure off Brady and making the unit more complete. That will only increase effectiveness for a team that averaged an NFL-high 32.4 points a game last year.

Quarterbacks ▸ With mind-boggling efficiency, Brady turned in what may have been his finest season—and that's including his record 50 TD passes in 2007. The reigning MVP finished with 36 touchdowns against just four interceptions. He broke an NFL regular-season record by not throwing a pick over 335 consecutive passes.

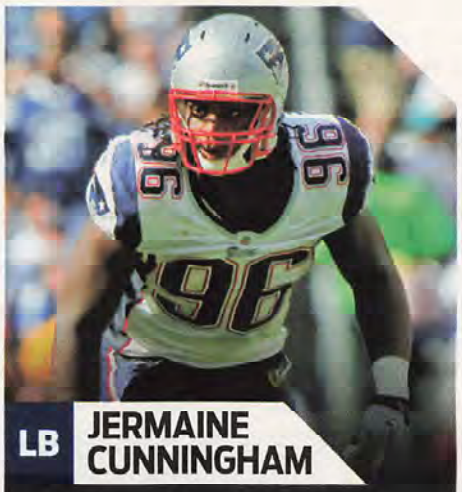
Brady engineered the league's top offense despite losing electric playmaker Randy Moss at midseason and mixing rejuvenated Deion Branch back into the fold. The result was eight consecutive wins and a return to Brady's proficiency at finding the open receiver. And this was all with a stress fracture on his plant foot that necessitated offseason surgery, a procedure from which he expects a full recovery.

Behind Brady is a solid backup in Brian Hoyer and mercurial rookie Ryan Mallett. While he doesn't have a strong arm, Hoyer can handle a tough situation when called upon thanks to his intelligence. Mallett is talented but has off-field concerns.

GRADE: A+

Running backs ▸ Before last season, it appeared obvious that former first-round pick Laurence Maroney and veteran Fred Taylor would carry the load for the Patriots' offense. However, while New England flashed a renewed commitment to running between the tackles, it wasn't with either player. Maroney was traded to the Broncos in September, while Taylor missed most of the season with a turf-toe injury.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB JERMAINE CUNNINGHAM

A 2010 second-round pick, Cunningham spent his injury-plagued rookie season learning to play upright after being a defensive end in college. Look for him to put it together this season and prove coach Bill Belichick right for ignoring pass rushers in the draft.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 14-2 HOME: 8-0

- **ONLINE:** www.patriots.com
- **STADIUM:** Gillette Stadium

Capacity: 68,756 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 800-745-3000

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, Mass.; 508-384-0578

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

DT Marcus Stroud (FA/Bills)

SUBTRACTIONS

G Stephen Neal (retired)

AFC EAST **1**

SN PICK **13-3**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Tom Brady Brian Hoyer
RB	BenJarvus Green-Ellis Danny Woodhead
LT	Matt Light Nate Solder
LG	Logan Mankins Rich Ohrnberger
C	Dan Koppen Ryan Wendell
RG	Dan Connolly Marcus Cannon
RT	Sebastian Vollmer Marcus Cannon
TE	Aaron Hernandez Alge Crumpler
TE	Rob Gronkowski Alge Crumpler
WR	Deion Branch Brandon Tate
WR	Wes Welker Julian Edelman
DEFENSE	
DE	Marcus Stroud Ron Brace
NT	Vince Wilfork Kyle Love
DE	Ty Warren Brandon Deaderick
OLB	Rob Ninkovich Tully Banta-Cain
ILB	Jerod Mayo Gary Guyton
ILB	Brandon Spikes Gary Guyton
OLB	Jermaine Cunningham Dane Fletcher
LCB	Devin McCourty Darius Butler
SS	Brandon Meriweather James Sanders
FS	Patrick Chung Jarrad Page
RCB	Leigh Bodden Ras-I Dowling
SPECIALISTS	
K	Stephen Gostkowski
P	Zoltan Mesko
KR	Brandon Tate
PR	Julian Edelman
LS	Matt Katula

RIC TAPIA / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: MATT A. BROWN / ICON SMI

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ MIAMI	SEPT. 12	7:00	W / L
WEEK 2	SAN DIEGO	SEPT. 18	4:15	W / L
WEEK 3	@ BUFFALO	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	@ OAKLAND	OCT. 2	4:15	W / L
WEEK 5	NY. JETS	OCT. 9	4:15	W / L
WEEK 6	DALLAS	OCT. 16	4:15	W / L
WEEK 7	OPEN			
WEEK 8	@ PITTSBURGH	OCT. 30	4:15	W / L
WEEK 9	N.Y. GIANTS	NOV. 6	4:15	W / L
WEEK 10	@ N.Y. JETS	NOV. 13	8:20	W / L
WEEK 11	KANSAS CITY	NOV. 21	8:30	W / L
WEEK 12	@ PHILADELPHIA	NOV. 27	4:15	W / L
WEEK 13	INDIANAPOLIS	DEC. 4	8:20	W / L
WEEK 14	@ WASHINGTON	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	@ DENVER	DEC. 18	4:15	W / L
WEEK 16	MIAMI	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	BUFFALO	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Instead, Green-Ellis, an undrafted free agent, emerged from anonymity to rush for 1,008 yards and pencil himself in as a back for the future. But he wasn't the biggest surprise. That went to Danny Woodhead, the diminutive Jets castoff who averaged 5.6 yards per carry. Green-Ellis was able to move a pile or dive across a goal line (13 TDs), while Woodhead was a threat in the run and passing game.

In the draft, the Pats filled out their roster with second-rounder Shane Vereen and bulldozing Stevan Ridley. **GRADE: B+**

Receivers ▸ There will be less intrigue and controversy at this position in 2011. However, the current group could use another speed upgrade for Brady's sake. Wes Welker's surgically repaired knee allowed him to catch 86 passes for 848 yards and seven touchdowns last year. Don't be surprised if he makes a leap back to 100-plus receptions in 2011.

Branch was clutch for New England upon his return, but can Julian Edelman, Brandon Tate or Taylor Price emerge as a legitimate game-by-game threat? One of them must, as there was no draft help.

The contributions from the tight ends made it all work last season. Rob Gronkowski's 10 touchdowns and Aaron Hernandez's 563 receiving yards made them the Pats' dynamic duo. They complement one another and make it impossible for an opponent to tell if New England is running or throwing. **GRADE: A-**

Offensive line ▸ To no one's surprise, the offensive line protected Brady, finishing fourth in sacks allowed, while paving the way for Green-Ellis. While a decade-long strength is still solid, age is becoming a concern.

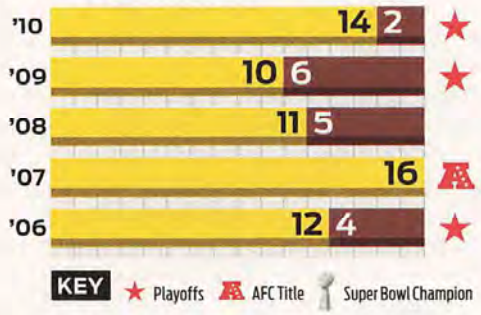
Guard Stephen Neal retired, veteran left tackle Matt Light's future is in doubt due to free agency and center Dan Koppen will be 32 this season. Drafting Colorado tackle Nate Solder in the first round emphasized the uncertainty, and he could take Light's place. The development of guard Dan Connolly and right tackle Sebastian Vollmer is important, as both are promising.

Searching for a long-term replacement for Koppen and Light are paramount, but perhaps more important is the future of guard Logan Mankins. The team put its 2011 franchise tag on the Pro Bowler, but the two sides were still far apart on a contract before the lockout hit. If Mankins signs a long-term deal, all is well. If not, the Pats may go with 2011 fifth-rounder Marcus Cannon next season. But future aside, this unit will do wonders for Brady again in 2011. **GRADE: A-**

DEFENSE

The stalwarts who led the Patriots to three Super Bowl rings are mostly gone. That meant

5-YEAR RECORD: 63-17



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Patriots)

"The outside receivers are OK; they're average to above average. They're not a threat. Those guys don't scare you. What scares you is what (Wes) Welker can bring to their offense. ... If they ever get the running back now to go with Wes Welker and those two tight ends, they're going to be (trouble). Because you get a tackle-to-tackle running back, and the linebackers have to play the slot and they also have to play the run, so he's a real matchup nightmare for us. ...

"Vince Wilfork, he's probably a great example of someone who, if you don't have a strong center ... he's a complete mismatch. Because now you're doubling him the whole game, and now those linebackers are running free. ... They're more multiple on offense. I don't think they're as predictable as they once were. It used to be really easy. It was Welker, it was (Randy) Moss ... Whoever they put in there at running back, it didn't matter, because (Tom) Brady was so efficient. Well, now, you have more personnel with the tight ends and I'm sure they're going to get somebody on the outside who can stretch the field vertically."

FANTASY SPIN

BenJarvus Green-Ellis proved to be a capable rusher last year, but the Patriots loaded up on running backs in the draft, which now makes him a riskier fantasy pick.

BUY

Tom Brady

SELL

Deion Branch

SLEEPER

Aaron Hernandez

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

GREG M. COOPER / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

WES WELKER

"The player for us (to focus on) when we match up against New England is Wes Welker. The reason he's a nightmare is if you try blanket coverage or zone coverage for this guy, he's going to kill you. And you try to find somebody who's going to match up with him physically. Not that he's an overly talented, physical specimen, but he's so quick and he's so good at finding those open spots, and rubbing off defenders and using his body. ...

"You almost have to have ... a Charles Woodson-type corner to say, 'OK, I'm going to take Wes Welker away,' which really frustrates (QB Tom) Brady a little bit. But what New England did last year—and it really helped them out—is they brought in those two tight ends (Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez). And now they can stretch the seam, ... which opens up a bigger space for Wes Welker."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	363.8	8
Rushing	123.3	9
Passing	240.4	11
SCORING	518	1
Punt Returns	13.4	3
Kick Returns	22.0	18
Red Zone TD %	62.7	4
Total Defense	366.5	25
Against Rush	108.0	11
Against Pass	258.5	30
Points Allowed	313	8
INTERCEPTIONS	25	1
Sacks	36	14t
TURNOVER DIFF.	28	1

2010 was a rebuilding year for de facto coordinator Belichick's youth-filled defense. Rising star cornerback Devin McCourty, All-Pro linebacker Jerod Mayo and the rest of the supporting cast made the kinds of strides Belichick coveted, as the Patriots ranked eighth in scoring defense. But can they be as stout if the offense doesn't have a big lead? If so, the building blocks for another decade are in place.

Defensive line ▶ Vince Wilfork is still the man in the middle, and that's bad news for an opposing offensive line. He turned in 57 tackles and two sacks in 2010. Veteran Gerard Warren will likely be replaced by Marcus Stroud, but the other end spot is up for grabs. Ron Brace and Brandon Deaderick will battle for the starting job, as will Ty Warren.

The defense finished 11th against the run in 2010, and the line was a big reason why. But the pass rush is still a concern. Mike Wright says he's better after a November concussion ended his 2010 campaign, but that remains to be seen. The midseason acquisition of Eric Moore helped, but he needs to show consistency for a full season. Expect more of an emphasis on the line rushing the passer in 2011. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▶ Healthy again and refreshed after a sophomore slump, Mayo led the NFL last year with 175 tackles and added two sacks and three fumble recoveries. The All-Pro was a thumping machine in a revamped run-stuffing unit. Upon being drafted in 2008, Mayo was charged with being the next Tedy Bruschi and is now looking even more impressive than his predecessor.

Mayo also deserves credit for helping groom raw rookie Brandon Spikes, who made up for a lack of speed by rarely missing a tackle. Before a suspension for violating the NFL's drug policy ended his regular season with four games to go, he totaled 61 tackles and an interception.

Outside linebacker was a revolving door for New England in 2010. From underperforming Tully Banta-Cain (5 sacks) to gritty Rob Ninkovich to still-developing Jermaine Cunningham, any two could start in 2011. The onus is on Cunningham to make the leap, while Dane Fletcher will be the top backup. If this group is to help the defense move out of the offense's shadow, Banta-Cain, Cunningham and Ninkovich must begin the fight. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸ A one-time woeful unit experienced a resurgence in 2010. Even with the season-ending injuries to starters Leigh Bodden and Brandon McGowan, the result was a position-wide improvement. McCourty, a 2010 first-round selection that many questioned, is looking like a perennial Pro Bowler thanks to stellar run defense and a nose for the ball (7 interceptions). Kyle Arrington rose from being a special-teamer to a starter opposite McCourty.

But it's not all good news. Arrington took the place of former second-rounder Darius Butler, who has yet to realize his full potential. Butler may start in the nickel with Bodden now healthy after his shoulder injury.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	38-24	Cincinnati Bengals
09/19	L	14-28	New York Jets
09/26	W	38-30	Buffalo Bills
10/04	W	41-14	Miami Dolphins
10/17	W	23-20	Baltimore Ravens
10/24	W	23-20	San Diego Chargers
10/31	W	28-18	Minnesota Vikings
11/07	L	14-34	Cleveland Browns
11/14	W	39-26	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/21	W	31-28	Indianapolis Colts
11/25	W	45-24	Detroit Lions
12/06	W	45-3	New York Jets
12/12	W	36-7	Chicago Bears
12/19	W	31-27	Green Bay Packers
12/26	W	34-3	Buffalo Bills
01/02	W	38-7	Miami Dolphins

WON 14, LOST 2

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Green-Ellis	229	1008	4.4	33	13
Woodhead	97	547	5.6	36	5
Taylor	43	155	3.6	24	0
Tate	5	62	12.4	22	0
Morris	20	56	2.8	9	0
Hernandez	3	47	15.7	18	0
Faulk	8	45	5.6	11	0
Brady	31	30	1.0	9	1
Clayton	6	17	2.8	5	0
Edelman	2	14	7.0	13	0
Hoyer	10	-8	-0.8	1	0
NEW ENGLAND	**454**	**1973**	**4.3**	**36**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**409**	**1728**	**4.2**	**36**	**10**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Welker	86	848	9.9	35	7
Branch	48	706	14.7	79	5
Hernandez	45	563	12.5	46	6
Gronkowski	42	546	13.0	28	10
Woodhead	34	379	11.1	50	1
Tate	24	432	18.0	65	3
Green-Ellis	12	85	7.1	16	0
Moss	9	139	15.4	35	3
Morris	7	77	11.0	22	0
Edelman	7	86	12.3	40	0
Faulk	6	62	10.3	21	0
Crumpler	6	52	8.7	27	2
Price	3	41	13.7	18	0
Taylor	2	6	3.0	7	0
NEW ENGLAND	**331**	**4022**	**12.2**	**79**	**37**
OPPONENTS	**388**	**4136**	**10.7**	**66**	**25**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brady	492	324	3900	36	4
Hoyer	15	7	122	1	1
NEW ENGLAND	**507**	**331**	**4022**	**37**	**5**
OPPONENTS	**611**	**388**	**4348**	**25**	**25**

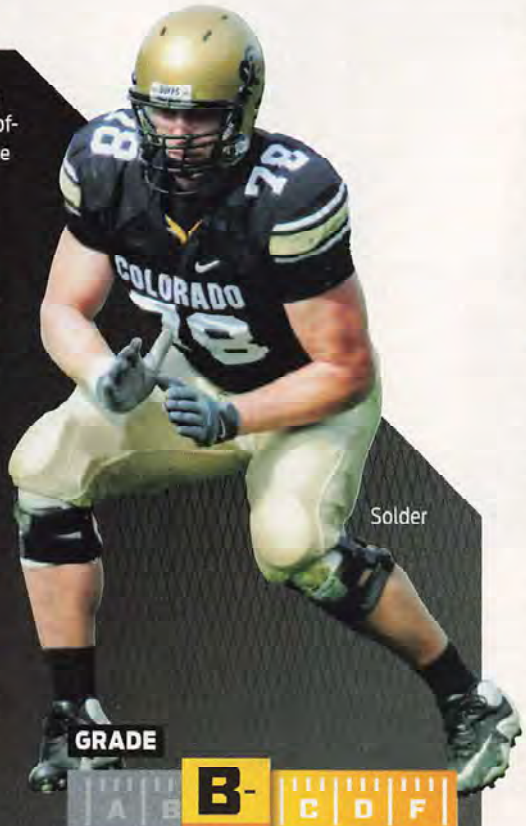
SACKS NEW ENGLAND 36, OPPONENTS 25

Wright 5.5, Banta-Cain 5, Ninkovich 4, Warren 3.5, Guyton 3, Fletcher 2, Mayo 2, Moore 2, Wilfork 2, Deaderick 2, Cunningham 1, Love 1, McCourty 1, Woods 1, Crable 0.5, Pryor 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

As usual, the Patriots had a hit-or-miss draft. In the first round, they gambled on offensive tackle **Nate Solder**, an elite athlete who wasn't dominant for Colorado and needs to improve his blocking technique. The second round brought cornerback **Ras-I Dowling** and running back **Shane Vereen** to New England. Dowling has the athleticism, instincts and competitive drive to be a starter, but will have to stay healthy. Vereen is an explosive back with excellent receiving skills who should add some big-play ability to the Patriots' offense.

In Round 3, New England grabbed **Stevan Ridley** to spell starters in the running game. Quarterback **Ryan Mallett** has outstanding arm strength and can be an excellent passer when his technique is on and the pocket is clean. He's a great gamble if he develops. Offensive tackle **Marcus Cannon** was worth choosing in the fifth round for his size, strength and athleticism.



GRADE

A | B | **B-** | C | D | F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	17	Nate Solder	OT	6-8	319	Colorado
2	1	Ras-I Dowling	CB	6-2	200	Virginia
2	24	Shane Vereen	RB	5-9	203	California
3	9	Stevan Ridley	RB	5-11	225	LSU
3	10	Ryan Mallett	QB	6-7	253	Arkansas
5	7	Marcus Cannon	OT	6-5	358	TCU
5	28	Lee Smith	TE	6-6	269	Marshall
6	29	Markell Carter	DE	6-4	252	Central Arkansas
7	16	Malcolm Williams	CB	5-10	204	TCU

DUSTIN BRADFORD / ICON SMI

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	8/3/77	12	Michigan
Crompton, Jonathan	QB	6-3	222	7/25/87	1	Tennessee
8 Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	215	10/13/85	3	Michigan State
Mallett, Ryan	QB	6-7	253	6/5/88	0	Arkansas

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Austin, Thomas	G	6-4	310	11/14/86	1	Clemson
Cannon, Marcus	T	6-5	358	5/6/88	0	TCU
63 Connolly, Dan	G	6-4	313	9/2/82	6	Southeast Missouri State
77 Kaczur, Nick	T	6-4	315	7/28/79	7	Toledo
48 Katula, Matt	C	6-6	265	8/22/82	7	Wisconsin
67 Koppen, Dan	C	6-2	296	9/12/79	9	Boston College
64 LeVoir, Mark	T	6-7	310	7/29/82	5	Notre Dame
72 Light, Matt	T	6-4	305	6/23/78	11	Purdue
Maneri, Steve	T	6-6	290	3/20/88	1	Temple
70 Mankins, Logan	G	6-4	310	3/10/82	7	Fresno State
60 Ohrnberger, Rich	G	6-2	300	2/14/86	3	Penn State
69 Ojinnaka, Quinn	T	6-5	295	4/23/84	6	Syracuse
Solder, Nate	T	6-8	319	4/12/88	0	Colorado
76 Vollmer, Sebastian	T	6-8	315	7/10/84	3	Houston
62 Wendell, Ryan	G	6-2	290	3/4/86	3	Fresno State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
22 Clayton, Thomas	RB	5-11	222	4/26/84	3	Kansas State
33 Faulk, Kevin	RB	5-8	202	6/5/76	13	LSU
42 Green-Ellis, BenJarvus	RB	5-11	215	7/2/85	4	Ole Miss
34 Morris, Sammy	RB	6-0	220	3/23/77	12	Texas Tech
Ridley, Stevan	RB	5-11	225	1/27/89	0	LSU
21 Taylor, Fred	RB	6-1	228	1/27/76	14	Florida
Vereen, Shane	RB	5-9	203	3/2/89	0	California
39 Woodhead, Danny	RB	5-8	195	1/25/85	4	Chadron State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
84 Branch, Deion	WR	5-9	195	7/18/79	10	Louisville
Butler, Carson	TE	6-4	260	8/21/87	1	Michigan
82 Crumpler, Alge	TE	6-2	275	12/23/77	10	North Carolina
11 Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	198	5/22/86	3	Kent State
13 Farnham, Buddy	WR	6-0	185	5/22/87	1	Brown
87 Gronkowski, Rob	TE	6-6	265	5/14/89	2	Arizona
85 Hernandez, Aaron	TE	6-1	245	11/6/89	2	Florida
10 Jenkins, Darnell	WR	5-10	191	12/31/82	1	Miami (Fla.)
17 Price, Taylor	WR	6-0	205	10/8/87	2	Ohio
18 Slater, Matt	WR	6-0	200	9/9/85	4	UCLA
Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	269	11/21/87	0	Marshall
19 Tate, Brandon	WR	6-1	195	10/5/87	3	North Carolina
83 Welker, Wes	WR	5-9	185	5/1/81	8	Texas Tech

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
97 Brace, Ron	DT	6-3	330	12/18/86	3	Boston College
66 Cohen, Landon	DE	6-3	300	8/3/86	4	Ohio
96 Cunningham, Jermaine	DE	6-3	260	4/24/00	2	Florida
71 Deaderick, Brandon	DE	6-4	305	8/19/87	2	Alabama
Favorite, Marlon	DT	6-1	317	6/22/86	1	LSU
74 Love, Kyle	DT	6-1	310	11/18/86	2	Mississippi State
98 Moore, Eric	DE	6-4	268	2/28/81	5	Florida State
Murrell, Marques	DE	6-2	250	3/20/85	4	Appalachian State
50 Ninkovich, Rob	DE	6-2	255	2/1/84	6	Purdue
91 Pryor, Myron	DT	6-1	310	6/13/86	3	Kentucky
90 Richard, Darryl	DT	6-4	295	6/17/86	2	Georgia Tech
Stroud, Marcus	DT	6-6	310	6/25/78	11	Georgia
92 Warren, Gerard	DT	6-4	330	7/25/78	11	Florida
94 Warren, Ty	DE	6-5	300	2/6/81	9	Texas A&M
66 Weston, Kade	DT	6-5	316	11/29/86	2	Georgia
75 Wilfork, Vince	DT	6-2	325	11/4/81	8	Miami (Fla.)
99 Wright, Mike	DE	6-4	295	3/1/82	7	Cincinnati

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Arrington, Kyle	CB	5-10	196	8/12/86	3	Hofstra
36 Barrett, Josh	S	6-2	225	11/22/84	4	Arizona State
23 Bodden, Leigh	CB	6-1	193	9/24/81	9	Duquesne
38 Brown, Sergio	CB	6-2	210	5/22/88	2	Notre Dame
28 Butler, Darius	CB	5-10	190	3/18/86	3	Connecticut
29 Carter, Tony	CB	5-9	175	5/24/86	1	Florida State
25 Chung, Pat	S	5-11	212	8/19/87	3	Oregon
Dowling, Ras-I	CB	6-2	200	5/9/88	0	Virginia
26 Lockett, Bret	S	6-1	220	10/7/86	3	UCLA
32 McCourty, Devin	CB	5-10	193	8/13/87	2	Rutgers
30 McGowan, Brandon	S	5-11	207	9/26/83	7	Maine
31 Meriweather, Brandon	S	5-11	200	1/14/84	5	Miami (Fla.)
44 Page, Jarrad	S	6-0	225	10/19/84	6	UCLA
36 Sanders, James	S	5-10	210	11/11/83	7	Fresno State
Turner, Thad	CB	5-11	188	4/30/87	1	Ohio
35 Ventrone, Ross	CB	5-8	190	9/27/86	1	Villanova
24 Wilhite, Jonathan	CB	5-11	185	2/23/84	4	Auburn
Williams, Malcolm	CB	5-10	204	12/22/88	0	TCU

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95 Banta-Cain, Tully	LB	6-2	250	8/28/80	9	California
Carter, Markell	LB	6-4	252	7/29/89	0	Central Arkansas
52 Fletcher, Dane	LB	6-2	244	9/14/86	2	Montana State
59 Guyton, Gary	LB	6-3	245	11/14/85	4	Georgia Tech
51 Mayo, Jerod	LB	6-1	245	2/23/86	4	Tennessee
55 Spikes, Brandon	LB	6-2	250	9/3/87	2	Florida
58 White, Tracy	LB	6-0	230	4/14/81	9	Howard

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Gostkowski, Stephen	K	6-1	210	1/28/84	6	Memphis
5 Graham, Shayne	K	6-0	214	12/9/77	11	Virginia Tech
14 Mesko, Zoltan	P	6-4	231	3/16/86	2	Michigan

BILL BELICHICK, Head coach

Bill O'Brien, offensive coordinator/quarterbacks; **Scott O'Brien,** special teams; **Dante Scarnecchia,** asst. head coach/offensive line; **Josh Boyer,** defensive backs; **Ivan Fears,** running backs; **Pepper Johnson,** defensive line; **Brian Ferentz,** tight ends; **Patrick Graham,** linebackers; **Matt Patricia,** safeties; **Chad O'Shea,** wide receivers

PATRIOTS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1t	Raymond Clayborn *(1977-89)*	36	1t	Ty Law *(1995-2004)*	36
3t	Ron Hall *(1961-67)*	29	3t	Roland James *(1980-90)*	29
3t	Fred Marion *(1982-91)*	29			

INSIDE THE HEADSET

BILL BELICHICK

Early in 2010, the Patriots were as basic on defense as they could be. That was reality for Belichick, given the youth of the unit. Only as the experience grew did you see disguise. Now, with some veterans back, expect a more creative and risk-taking defense, along with a dynamic offense.

Competition will also come from 2011 second-round pick Ras-I Dowling, a physical cornerback from Virginia. If Butler improves his ball skills and Arrington is the fourth corner, this will be as strong a cornerback unit as New England has had in years.

At safety, Brandon Meriweather may find himself on the trading block in his contract year, thanks to the steady James Sanders and former Chiefs starter Jarrad Page, who was given a second-round restricted free-agent tender. Throw in playmaking Patrick Chung and there may not be room for Meriweather. That's a sign of a stout secondary. **GRADE: B-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

New England's punter position looks to be sound for the next 10 years. Thank Zoltan Mesko for that. Mesko will only improve on what is already a big-footed weapon. It's the kicking situation that is tenuous.

Pro Bowler Stephen Gostkowski, who has a new four-year deal, made his last nine field goals of 2010 before tearing a thigh muscle in November. He was still using a cane as of January, so his progress will be monitored closely. While Edelman started slow on punt returns, he ended the season with a 94-yard touchdown. Pencil in the speedster there for another year. As for kick returner? That's not as clear. Tate began the year with two scores in the first four games, then struggled down the stretch. His leash is short entering the 2011 campaign. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

The Patriots defied expectations in 2010 with a 14-2 regular-season mark, using Brady's expertise to jump out to big leads and allow the defense to stop an opponent that was one-dimensional. It's too much to expect Brady to keep turning in eye-popping seasons, so the onus for success is on the defense. The group is a year older, which will help.

If they can avoid injury issues, don't be surprised if the Patriots have their most balanced team in three seasons. But the attention will eventually turn to the playoffs, where they have a three-game losing streak. The Patriots will need more than Brady to break through to the Super Bowl this season.

94 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

2

AFC EAST

SN PICK **10-6**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Mark Sanchez Mark Brunell
FB	John Conner Brian Toal
RB	Shonn Greene LaDainian Tomlinson
LT	D'Brickashaw Ferguson Wayne Hunter
LG	Matt Slauson Robert Turner
C	Nick Mangold Robert Turner
RG	Brandon Moore Robert Turner
RT	Wayne Hunter Vladimir Ducasse
TE	Dustin Keller Matthew Mulligan
WR	Jerricho Cotchery Jeremy Kerley
WR	Santonio Holmes Jerricho Cotchery
DEFENSE	
DE	Mike DeVito Muhammad Wilkerson
NT	Sione Pouha Kenrick Ellis
DE	Marcus Dixon Ropati Pitoitua
OLB	Bryan Thomas Jamaal Westerman
ILB	David Harris Cody Brown
ILB	Bart Scott Josh Mauga
OLB	Calvin Pace Jamaal Westerman
LCB	Darrelle Revis Drew Coleman
SS	Jim Leonhard Eric Smith
FS	Dwight Lowery Brodney Pool
RCB	Antonio Cromartie Marquice Cole
SPECIALISTS	
K	Nick Folk
P	Steve Weatherford
KR	Brad Smith
PR	Joe McKnight
LS	Tanner Purdum

Third time's the charm? Once again, Jets have championship hopes

By J.P. Pelzman *Bergen (N.J.) Record*

Rex Ryan wowed the media with his trademark mixture of braggadocio and one-liners at both the NFL Combine and owners' meetings earlier this year. So all the garrulous third-year Jets coach needs to do now is get the last word and play the biggest room in football, the Super Bowl.

The Jets have fallen one step short of that objective each of the past two seasons, and have the talent and coaching to make the climb in 2011, especially if third-year quarterback Mark Sanchez continues to develop. But the defense could use another pass rusher and it's fair to ask whether playing three extra games in each of the last two seasons will catch up with the Jets as they go forward.

OFFENSE

The Jets use their fullback a lot, but may reconsider that in the future because Sanchez seems more comfortable in one-back sets. Coordinator Brian Schottenheimer likes to employ different formations and a lot of pre-snap motion to confuse defenses.

Still, the fullback won't disappear, as Ryan prefers a run-oriented offense that limits mistakes. However, that philosophy was at odds with the amount of receiving talent the Jets possessed in 2010.

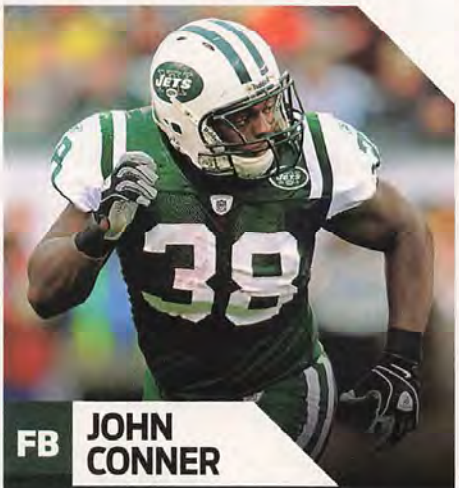
Quarterbacks ▸ Sanchez took a step forward last season, cutting his interceptions from 20 in 2009 to 13 last year. But he still was prone to bouts of inconsistency, and had at least one interception in eight consecutive games at one point in the season.

Sanchez was at his best under the pressure of the playoffs and also when the Jets were tied or trailing late, as the hurry-up offense presented him with fewer reads and more space with which to work. But for him to become the franchise quarterback the Jets expect him to be, Sanchez must improve his play during the body of games, not just the fourth quarter and in overtime. Sanchez did not need offseason surgery on his right shoulder, which was injured in a Dec. 19 game at Pittsburgh, so he figures to be healthy for 2011. He has become more judicious about sliding when scrambling, a major teaching point after his rookie season.

Veteran Mark Brunell wasn't asked to do much as the primary backup besides serve as a mentor to Sanchez, and it's telling that Ryan never chose to insert Brunell even when Sanchez was struggling during a game. **GRADE: B**

Running backs ▸ Through five games last season, LaDainian Tomlinson appeared to be the runaway favorite for 2010 Comeback Player of the Year, when he had rushed for 435 yards at 5.7 yards per carry. But Tomlinson, who will be 32 by the 2011 season opener, declined after that point, and didn't run for more than 57 yards in one game over his last 10 regular-season contests before sitting out

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



FB JOHN CONNER

Conner became a favorite of Rex Ryan's as a rookie because of his punishing blocks. But "The Terminator" also learned that a kill shot isn't always necessary to get the job done, and that should lessen his chances of injury. He will likely be the starter in 2011.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 11-5 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.newyorkjets.com
- **STADIUM:** New Meadowlands Stadium

Capacity: 82,500 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 800-469-JETS

- **TRAINING CAMP:** SUNY-Cortland, Cortland, N.Y.; 607-753-2321

OFFSEASON MOVES *as of May 11*

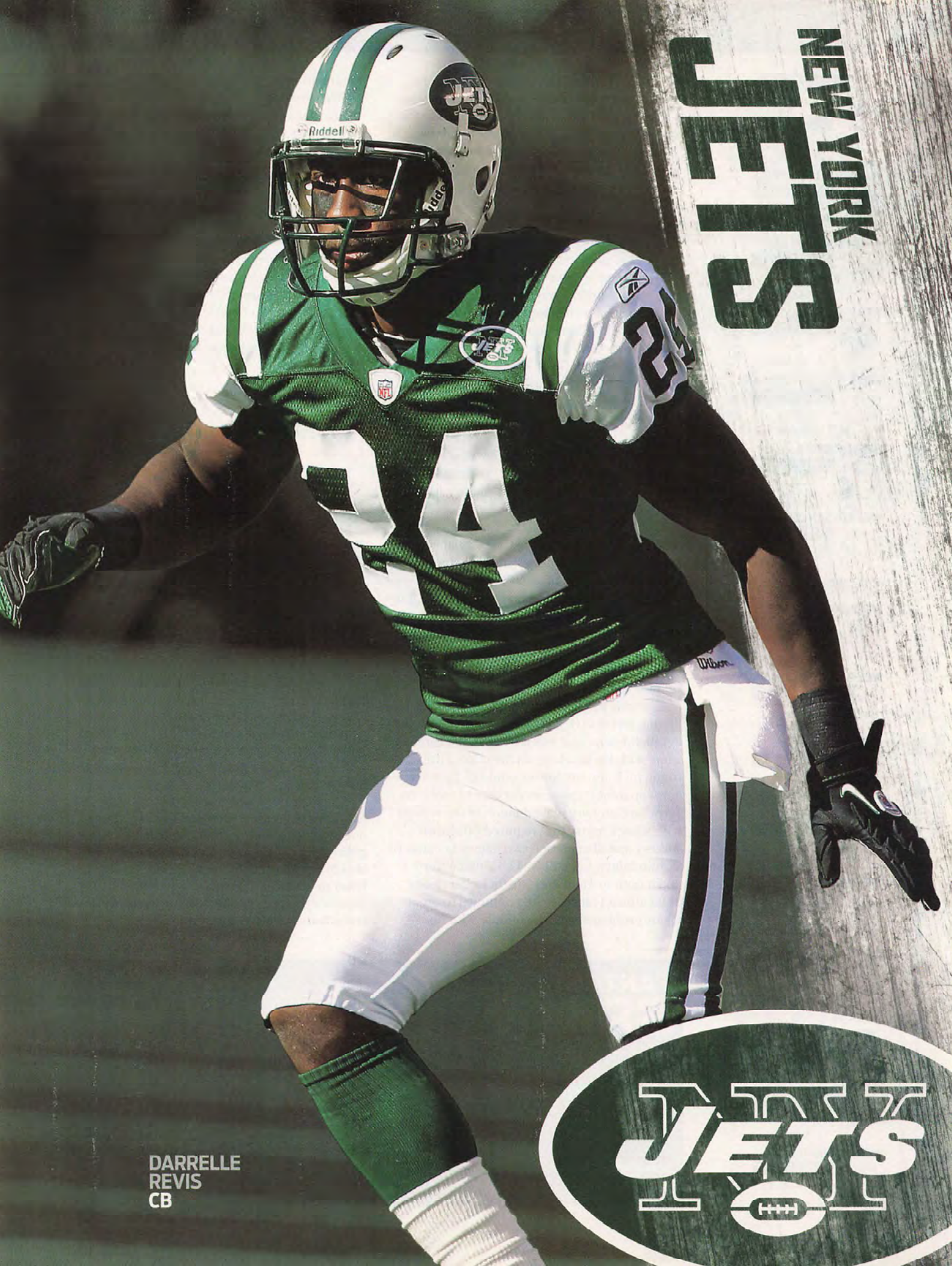
ADDITIONS

K Nick Novak (FA/Florida Tuskers, UFL)

SUBTRACTIONS

LB Damien Woody (FA), **DT Kris Jenkins** (FA), **DE Jason Taylor** (FA), **DE Vernon Gholston** (FA), **TE Ben Hartsock** (FA)

RICH KANE / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES


NEW YORK
JETS
DARRELLE
REVIS
CB

SCHEDULE

Week	Opponent	Date	Time	Score
WEEK 1	DALLAS	SEPT. 11	8:20	W L
WEEK 2	JACKSONVILLE	SEPT. 18	1:00	W L
WEEK 3	@ OAKLAND	SEPT. 25	4:05	W L
WEEK 4	@ BALTIMORE	OCT. 2	8:20	W L
WEEK 5	@ NEW ENGLAND	OCT. 9	4:15	W L
WEEK 6	MIAMI	OCT. 17	8:30	W L
WEEK 7	SAN DIEGO	OCT. 23	1:00	W L
WEEK 8	OPEN			
WEEK 9	@ BUFFALO	NOV. 6	1:00	W L
WEEK 10	NEW ENGLAND	NOV. 13	8:20	W L
WEEK 11	@ DENVER	NOV. 17	8:20	W L
WEEK 12	BUFFALO	NOV. 27	1:00	W L
WEEK 13	@ WASHINGTON	DEC. 4	1:00	W L
WEEK 14	KANSAS CITY	DEC. 11	1:00	W L
WEEK 15	@ PHILADELPHIA	DEC. 18	4:15	W L
WEEK 16	N.Y. GIANTS	DEC. 24	1:00	W L
WEEK 17	@MIAMI	JAN. 1	1:00	W L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the finale. The Jets have to be more careful this season with their use of Tomlinson, who did prove to be a terrific receiving option for Sanchez, especially in the hurry-up offense.

Expect third-year man Shonn Greene to get the bulk of the carries this season. Greene, who averaged 4.1 yards in 2010, is the kind of downhill runner who gets better the more times he carries the ball. However, he must get over a nagging habit of fumbling at crucial times.

The Jets let overachiever Danny Woodhead (who went on to have success with rival New England) go shortly after last season began in order to keep 2010 fourth-round draft pick Joe McKnight. Expect him to get more of Tomlinson's touches this season, as could 2011 fourth-round pick Bilal Powell. Second-year pro John Conner is poised to take over for veteran Tony Richardson at fullback. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ The lockout couldn't have come at a worse time for the Jets, who were trying to figure out some way to re-sign big-play targets Santonio Holmes and Braylon Edwards as well as do-everything weapon Brad Smith, who also operates out of the Wildcat.

Holmes, acquired from Pittsburgh for a fifth-round pick last April, proved to be a bargain, as he had 52 receptions despite missing the first four games because of an NFL-imposed suspension. He also scored the game-winner or set it up in four consecutive Jets' victories. However, he also can be mercurial, begging off punt returns in a December game because Miami's Brandon Fields was punting the ball too far, at least in Holmes' opinion.

Edwards had a highly publicized drunken-driving arrest in September yet still led the Jets in touchdowns and was a force in the running game with his blocking on the edge. Fifth-round pick Jeremy Kerley could be Smith's heir apparent if the team decides to move on. Jerricho Cotchery played much of the season with a back injury that required offseason surgery and also missed two games because of a groin injury, yet still was a valuable third-down option. Tight end Dustin Keller needs to be utilized more, as he continues to create major problems over the middle with his combination of speed and strength. **GRADE: A**

Offensive line ▸ The Jets again need to re-tool their offensive line, something they did successfully in 2010. The team released perennial Pro Bowl left guard Alan Faneca last April because his pass-blocking was declining and plugged in third-year pro Matt Slauson. Despite some expected missteps early, Slauson caught on quickly and figures to improve in his second year as a full-time starter. Left tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson and center Nick Mangold have made the Pro Bowl in each of the last two seasons, and right guard Brandon Moore has played at a Pro Bowl-level the last two years despite not getting the call either time.

Line guru Bill Callahan, who tutored

5-YEAR RECORD: 43-37

Year	Playoffs	AFC Title	Super Bowl Champion
'10	11	5	★
'09	9	7	★
'08	9	7	
'07	4	12	
'06	10	6	★

KEY ★ Playoffs AFC Title Super Bowl Champion

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Jets)

"There is no question the D-line needs to get younger. (Shaun) Ellis, (Trevor) Pryce ... they are all in their 30s. They need a dominant pure pass rusher, something Vernon Gholston never grew into. I would think they would re-sign (Antonio) Cromartie and he would be better with technique during his second year in the system. Jim Leonhard is going to be a big help in his return. ...

"The offense should be good. Re-signing (Santonio) Holmes is the priority. He opens up a lot of things offensively. Mark Sanchez should be starting to hit his groove being comfortable in the offense. It is time for Mark to be a difference-maker. He has relied on the talent around him up to this point. Now he should be ready to manipulate the offense and defensive schemes presented to manufacture more points."

FANTASY SPIN

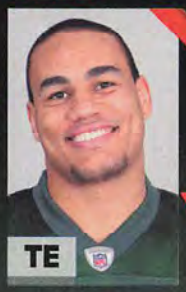
The Jets have put Mark Sanchez in a position to succeed, but he'll need to be more accurate in order to have consistent fantasy value.

BUY

RB

Shonn Greene

SELL



TE

Dustin Keller

SLEEPER

RB

Joe McKnight

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

RICH KANE / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

MARK SANCHEZ

"As most young quarterbacks do, Mark tends to lock on receivers and wait too long to release the ball, often aiming rather than fluidly releasing. He doesn't smoothly go through his progressions to read and diagnose the coverage and throw with anticipation. ...

"That is why when the Jets are in a dropback-pass mode, they struggle. Sanchez does a lot better when the Jets stay committed to running the football (and) utilize play-action, movement passes like bootlegs and waggles, (thus) moving his launch point."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	351.0	11
Rushing	148.4	4
Passing	202.6	22
Scoring	367	13
Punt Returns	9.4	20
Kick Returns	25.2	3
Red Zone TD %	40.0	30
Total Defense	291.5	3
Against Rush	90.9	3
Against Pass	200.6	6
Points Allowed	304	6
Interceptions	12	25t
Sacks	40	8t
Turnover Diff.	9	5t

Slauson, will now turn his attention toward right tackle. Damien Woody was released after missing five of the last six games (including the postseason) because of knee and Achilles' injuries, and career backup Wayne Hunter (if he is re-signed) likely will compete with second-year pro Vladimir Ducasse to replace Woody. **GRADE: A-**

DEFENSE

This is an attacking defense under Ryan and coordinator Mike Pettine, but the team toned down its blitzes in 2010 as opponents figured out how to block the Jets, especially on third down. Still, the blitz remains the focal point of the Jets' defensive scheme, which is dependent on Darrelle Revis continuing to display his all-world form. The base scheme is a 3-4, but the Jets often mix in four-man fronts.

Defensive line ▸ This unit needed to get younger in 2011, and did so via the draft. The Jets' age on the defensive line was exposed during the first half of the AFC title game, when Pittsburgh's Rashard Mendenhall rushed for 95 of his 121 yards. The Steelers often went at the right side of the line, attacking ends Shaun Ellis and Trevor Pryce. Neither of those players is expected back, and the Jets have also parted ways with injury-plagued nose tackle Kris Jenkins, drafting often-troubled but talented Kenrick Ellis as his replacement. The Jets believe the former Hampton star has moved past his off-field incidents. First-rounder Muhammad Wilkerson also is a bit raw, but is

talented and versatile.

Sione Pouha has proven to be an excellent replacement for Jenkins, but the Jets want to start grooming the 32-year-old's replacement. Mike DeVito is a run stuffer with a terrific motor, but isn't a factor in the pass rush. The Jets should get a boost from the expected return of Ropati Pitoitua, an up-and-coming player who missed all of last season because of a torn Achilles. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸ The Jets put the franchise tag on standout inside linebacker David Harris, one of the cornerstones of their 3-4 defense. Harris is a fierce hitter who has had 8.5 sacks over the last two seasons and can stop the run, drop into coverage and make plays in space.

Fellow inside linebacker Bart Scott is a favorite of Ryan's because of his attitude and inspirational nature, but the Jets could use more plays from him. The Jets released Vernon Gholston, a bust who made no sacks in three NFL seasons despite being the sixth overall pick in 2008.

Outside linebacker Bryan Thomas led the Jets with six sacks last season and should get more opportunities to rush the passer. Calvin Pace has 13.5 sacks over the past two seasons despite missing four games in each campaign for an NFL-imposed suspension in 2009 and a foot injury in 2010. However, he needs to be more efficient as a pass rusher. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸ Revis struggled early last season, as he missed two games because of a hamstring injury and allowed touchdown catches in three consecutive games after allowing only two in all of 2009. But Revis was back to his Pro Bowl self by November,

DRAFT REPORT

Getting **Muhammad Wilkerson** at the end of Round 1 was an excellent value, as the tall, long-armed rookie fits perfectly as an end in the Jets' 3-4 scheme. He'll develop to become a starter if he fine-tunes his technique. In the third round, the Jets found **Kenrick Ellis**, who has the natural strength and rare athleticism to become a Pro Bowl-caliber player if he stays out of trouble.

Bilal Powell is a straight-line runner with the acceleration to burst through holes in the offensive line and take plays the distance. **Jeremy Kerley**, a wide receiver picked in Round 5, should be a good backup who contributes mostly as a return man initially, but he could vie for a starting spot in 2012 or beyond. Alabama quarterback **Greg McElroy** fell to the seventh round because he lacks the arm strength to make all the NFL throws. Expect him to surprise people though, as he's fundamentally sound, extremely smart and very coachable.

Wilkerson

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	30	Muhammad Wilkerson	DE	6-4	315	Temple
3	30	Kenrick Ellis	DT	6-5	346	Hampton
4	29	Bilal Powell	RB	5-10	207	Louisville
5	22	Jeremy Kerley	WR	5-9	189	TCU
7	5	Greg McElroy	QB	6-2	220	Alabama
7	24	Scotty McKnight	WR	5-9	182	Colorado

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	9-10	Baltimore Ravens
09/19	W	28-14	New England Patriots
09/26	W	31-23	Miami Dolphins
10/03	W	38-14	Buffalo Bills
10/11	W	29-20	Minnesota Vikings
10/17	W	24-20	Denver Broncos
10/31	L	0-9	Green Bay Packers
11/07	W	23-20	Detroit Lions
11/14	W	26-20	Cleveland Browns
11/21	W	30-27	Houston Texans
11/25	W	26-10	Cincinnati Bengals
12/06	L	3-45	New England Patriots
12/12	L	6-10	Miami Dolphins
12/19	W	22-17	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/26	L	34-38	Chicago Bears
01/02	W	38-7	Buffalo Bills

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Tomlinson	219	914	4.2	31	6
Greene	185	766	4.1	23	2
Smith	38	299	7.9	53	1
McKnight	39	189	4.8	18	0
Sanchez	30	105	3.5	20	3
Conner	8	44	5.5	16	1
Holmes	2	17	8.5	14	0
Weatherford	1	17	17.0	17	0
Richardson	5	13	2.6	4	0
Clemens	2	9	4.5	10	1
Edwards	1	4	4.0	4	0
Cotchery	4	-3	-0.8	4	0
NY JETS	**534**	**2374**	**4.4**	**53**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**408**	**1454**	**3.6**	**32**	**11**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Keller	55	687	12.5	41	5
Edwards	53	904	17.1	74	7
Tomlinson	52	368	7.1	21	0
Holmes	52	746	14.3	52	6
Cotchery	41	433	10.6	49	2
Greene	16	120	7.5	15	0
Richardson	5	31	6.2	14	0
Smith	4	44	11.0	23	0
McKnight	3	20	6.7	9	0
Conner	2	9	4.5	7	0
Turner	2	26	13.0	21	0
Clowney	1	22	22.0	22	0
Cumberland	1	3	3.0	3	0
Hartsock	1	7	7.0	7	0
NY JETS	**288**	**3420**	**11.9**	**74**	**20**
OPPONENTS	**269**	**3210**	**11.9**	**50**	**24**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sanchez	507	278	3291	17	13
Brunell	13	7	117	2	1
Smith	3	2	6	1	0
Clemens	2	1	6	0	0
NY JETS	**525**	**288**	**3420**	**20**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**531**	**269**	**3454**	**24**	**12**

SACKS NY JETS 40, OPPONENTS 28

Thomas 6, Pace 5.5, Taylor 5, Ellis 4.5, Coleman 4, Harris 3, Ihedigbo 3, Pouha 2, Lowery 2, Dixon 1, Pool 1, Pryce 1, Scott 1, Smith 1

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

	QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3	Ainge, Erik	QB	6-5	221	6/12/86	3	Tennessee
8	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-1	215	9/17/70	19	Washington
11	Clemens, Kellen	QB	6-2	220	6/7/83	6	Oregon
	McElroy, Greg	QB	6-2	220	5/10/88	0	Alabama
7	O'Connell, Kevin	QB	6-5	225	5/25/85	4	San Diego State
6	Sanchez, Mark	QB	6-2	225	11/11/86	3	USC
	Willy, Drew	QB	6-3	217	11/13/86	1	Buffalo

	OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Davis, Marlon	G	6-2	309	11/2/86	0	Alabama
62	Ducasse, Vladimir	T	6-5	325	10/15/87	2	Massachusetts
59	Felix, Robby	C	6-3	295	6/3/86	1	UTEP
60	Ferguson, D'Brickashaw	T	6-6	310	12/10/83	6	Virginia
78	Hunter, Wayne	T	6-5	318	7/2/81	8	Hawaii
	Landolt, Dennis	G	6-4	306	10/15/86	1	Penn State
74	Mangold, Nick	C	6-4	307	1/13/84	6	Ohio State
65	Moore, Brandon	G	6-3	305	6/3/80	9	Illinois
46	Purdum, Tanner	LS	6-3	270	8/15/84	2	Baker
68	Slauson, Matt	G	6-5	315	2/18/86	3	Nebraska
75	Turner, Robert	G	6-4	308	8/20/84	4	New Mexico

	RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Brown, Carlos	RB	6-0	212	4/28/88	0	Michigan
38	Conner, John	RB	5-11	245	6/8/87	2	Kentucky
23	Greene, Shonn	RB	5-11	226	8/21/85	3	Iowa
	Jennings, Chris	RB	5-10	219	12/12/85	2	Arizona
25	McKnight, Joe	RB	5-11	205	4/16/88	2	USC
	Powell, Bilal	RB	5-10	207	10/27/88	0	Louisville
49	Richardson, Tony	RB	6-1	240	12/17/71	17	Auburn
21	Tomlinson, LaDainian	RB	5-10	215	6/23/79	11	TCU

	RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
89	Cotchery, Jerricho	WR	6-0	203	6/16/82	8	N.C. State
86	Cumberland, Jeff	TE	6-4	260	5/2/87	2	Illinois
17	Edwards, Braylon	WR	6-3	214	2/21/83	7	Michigan
10	Holmes, Santonio	WR	5-11	192	3/3/84	6	Ohio State
81	Keller, Dustin	TE	6-2	250	9/25/84	4	Purdue
	Kerley, Jeremy	WR	5-9	189	11/8/88	0	TCU
	McKnight, Scotty	WR	5-11	182	2/11/88	0	Colorado
82	Mulligan, Matthew	TE	6-4	265	1/18/85	3	Maine
	Payne, Logan	WR	6-2	208	1/21/85	1	Minnesota
16	Smith, Brad	WR	6-2	212	12/12/83	6	Missouri
	Turner, Patrick	WR	6-5	220	5/19/87	3	USC

	DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Brown, Cody	DE	6-3	244	11/9/86	2	Connecticut
70	DeVito, Mike	DE	6-3	305	6/10/84	5	Maine
94	Dixon, Marcus	DE	6-4	295	9/16/84	2	Hampton
	Ellis, Kenrick	DT	6-5	346	12/10/87	0	Hampton
92	Ellis, Shaun	DE	6-5	290	6/24/77	12	Tennessee
71	Gilbert, Jarron	DT	6-5	285	9/30/86	3	San Jose State
98	Kroul, Matt	DT	6-3	300	2/25/86	2	Iowa
	McIntyre, Garrett	DE	6-3	250	11/26/84	0	Fresno State
97	Pace, Calvin	DE	6-4	265	10/28/80	9	Wake Forest
79	Pitoitua, Ropati	DE	6-8	315	4/6/85	3	Washington State
91	Pouha, Sione	DT	6-3	325	2/3/79	7	Utah
	Powell, Carlton	DT	6-2	312	8/14/85	1	Virginia Tech
93	Pryce, Trevor	DT	6-5	290	8/3/75	15	Clemson
	Tevaseu, Martin	DT	6-3	325	10/7/87	1	Nevada
58	Thomas, Bryan	DE	6-4	260	6/7/79	10	UAB
	Washington, Lorenzo	DE	6-4	291	12/2/86	1	Alabama
55	Westerman, Jamaal	DE	6-3	255	2/21/85	3	Rutgers
	Wilkerson, Muhammad	DT	6-4	315	10/22/89	0	Temple

	DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Billingsley, Will	CB	5-10	195	4/23/84	1	North Carolina A&T
34	Cole, Marquice	CB	5-10	192	11/13/83	3	Northwestern
30	Coleman, Drew	CB	5-9	180	4/22/83	6	TCU
27	Cook, Emanuel	S	5-10	214	1/20/88	1	South Carolina
31	Cromartie, Antonio	CB	6-2	210	4/15/84	6	Florida State
44	Ihedigbo, James	CB	6-1	214	12/3/83	5	Massachusetts
	Lankster, Ellis	CB	5-9	190	6/3/87	2	West Virginia
36	Leonhard, Jim	S	5-8	188	10/27/82	7	Wisconsin
26	Lowery, Dwight	CB	5-11	198	1/23/86	4	San Jose State
22	Pool, Brodney	S	6-2	214	5/24/84	7	Oklahoma
24	Revis, Darrelle	CB	5-11	198	7/14/85	5	Pittsburgh
33	Smith, Eric	S	6-1	207	3/17/83	6	Michigan State
	Taylor, Richard	S	5-11	190	11/5/85	0	Maryland
20	Wilson, Kyle	CB	5-10	190	5/30/87	2	Boise State

	LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52	Harris, David	LB	6-2	250	1/21/84	5	Michigan
	LaRocque, Joey	LB	6-2	228	3/15/86	1	Oregon State
56	Laury, Lance	LB	6-2	242	1/17/82	6	South Carolina
	Long, Brandon	LB	6-3	254	9/6/86	0	Michigan State
58	Mauga, Josh	LB	6-1	245	6/20/87	2	Nevada
	Satele, Brashton	LB	6-0	241	11/8/87	1	Hawaii
57	Scott, Bart	LB	6-2	242	8/18/80	10	Southern Illinois
	Toal, Brian	LB	6-0	238	3/8/85	0	Boston College

	KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Conley, T.J.	P	6-3	220	8/29/85	0	Idaho
2	Folk, Nick	K	6-1	222	11/5/84	5	Arizona
	Novak, Nick	K	6-0	198	8/21/81	3	Maryland
9	Weatherford, Steve	P	6-3	215	12/17/82	6	Illinois

REX RYAN, Head coach

Brian Schottenheimer, offensive coordinator; **Mike Pettine**, defensive coordinator; **Mike Westhoff**, special teams coordinator; **Bill Callahan**, asst. head coach/offensive line; **Mark Carrier**, defensive line; **Matt Cavanaugh**, quarterbacks; **Mike Devlin**, tight ends/asst. offensive line; **Henry Ellard**, wide receivers; **Ben Kotwica**, asst. special teams; **Anthony Lynn**, running backs; **Jim O'Neil**, asst. defensive backs; **Bob Sutton**, linebackers; **Dennis Thurman**, defensive backs; **Jeff Weeks**, outside linebackers

JETS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Bill Baird** *(1963-69)*	34	2	**Dainard Paulson** *(1961-66)*	39
3t	**Aaron Glenn** *(1994-2001)*	24	3t	**Larry Grantham** *(1960-72)*	24
3t	**Victor Green** *(1993-2001)*	24	3t	**James Hasty** *(1988-94)*	24

INSIDE THE HEADSET

REX RYAN

Ryan coaches much like his personality. He is bold and is willing to take risks, with all-out blitzes on defense and often going for it on fourth down on offense. The former is a byproduct of the confidence he has in his defense. He prefers a conservative offense but doesn't mind gadget plays.

enabling the Jets to take more chances with their blitzes. Oddly enough, he didn't have an interception last season.

Antonio Cromartie had some problems with penalties in 2010, which resulted in some rough games, but he also made some big plays. The Jets are likely to re-sign him. The secondary suffered late last season without steady strong safety Jim Leonhard, who missed the last eight games (including the playoffs) with a broken leg. He is expected to be ready for the season.

Former Brown Brodney Pool had an uneven first season as a Jet, though Eric Smith was solid in a part-time role. Dwight Lowery has made the transition from corner to safety, and could be a major factor in 2011. Cornerback Drew Coleman is an excellent blitzer, but suspect in coverage. **GRADE: A**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Smith returned two kickoffs for touchdowns last season, helping the Jets to victories over Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. Re-signing him will be important, as special teams coordinator Mike Westhoff will try to compensate for the rule change barring wedge blocking. The Jets drafted Kerley (who will also be vying for the punt return job).

Nick Folk (30-for-39 on field goal attempts in 2010) was erratic at times in his first year with the Jets and will be challenged by newcomer Nick Novak. Steve Weatherford's 38.1-yard net average was solid, although a few costly shanks beset the veteran punter. Long snapper Tanner Purdum had few hiccups in his first season as a Jet. **GRADE: B-**

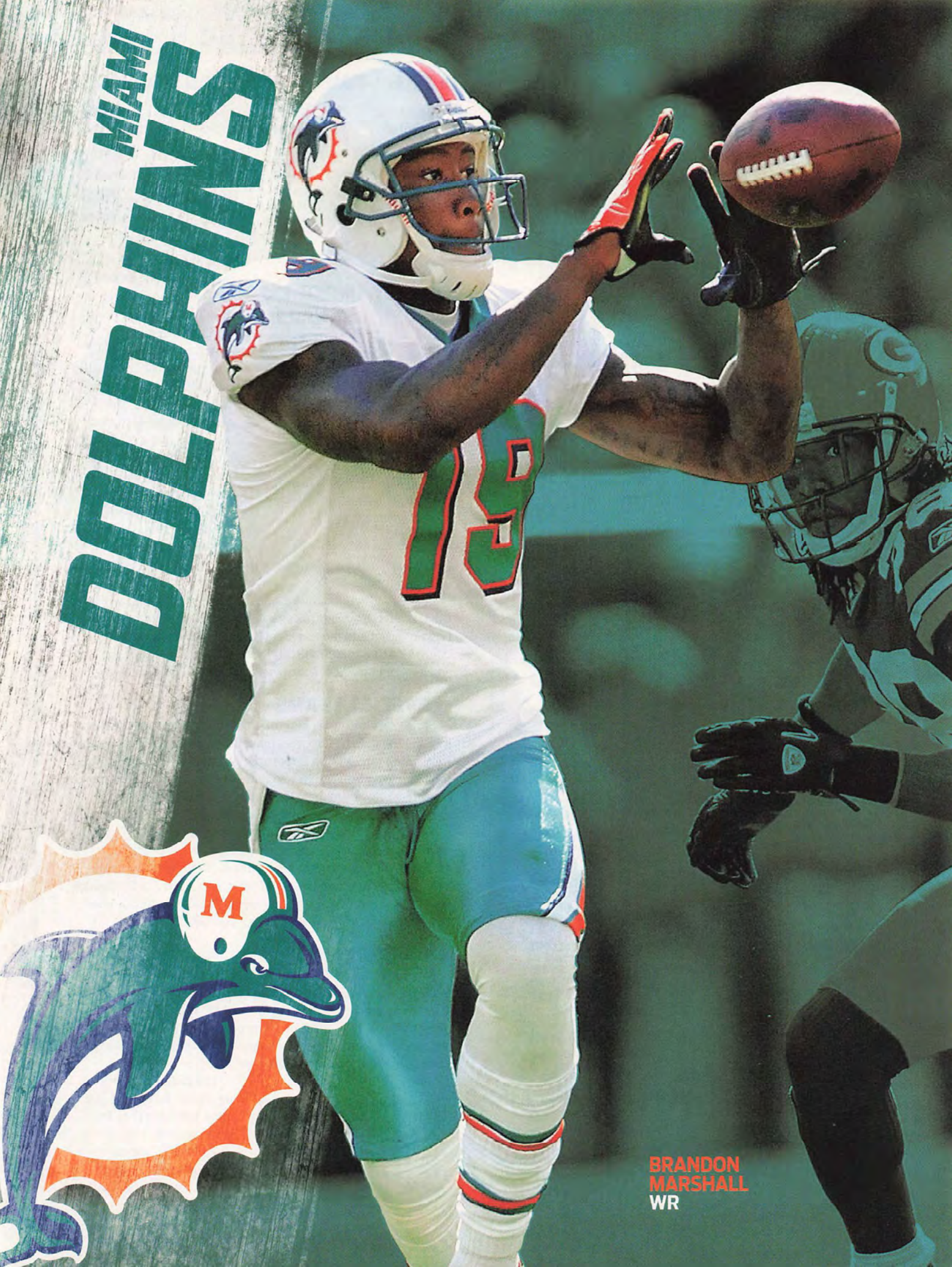
BOTTOM LINE

No matter how the roster shakes out, this will be a talented team. It's doubtful that complacency will set in after two consecutive losses in the AFC title game, as Ryan's players rarely lack for motivation. Sanchez needs to take the next step and show he can produce for all four quarters each game, not just in crunch time.

The defense again figures to be strong, but must have another Pro Bowl season from Revis. The playoffs appear to be a given, but getting over the hump in January won't be easy.

90
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY


MIAMI
DOLPHINS
19
BRANDON
MARSHALL
WR

Dolphins looking for calmer waters and less drama in 2011

By Jeff Darlington Miami Herald

As the final minutes of Miami's disappointing 2010 season were winding down, the scene on the Dolphins' sideline looked both dysfunctional and dramatic.

A Sunday afternoon thumping from the Patriots—which included bickering between star players and coaches—was nothing compared to what would go down in the following weeks.

Remember when owner Stephen Ross flew across the country to court Jim Harbaugh while Dolphins coach Tony Sparano waited at home and out of the loop? Or when players were openly ripping teammates and coaches?

Miami is doing everything possible to forget all that, a process that has included a contract extension for Sparano and a makeover to the offensive staff.

But everyone around the league still knows there's only one thing that's going to make anyone forget the Dolphins' offseason dysfunction: winning. And unfortunately for Miami, that task isn't going to be easy in the always-competitive AFC East.

OFFENSE

Only two teams scored fewer points per game than the Dolphins in 2010. Maybe that's because of an inept running game. Or the lack of a deep threat. Or inconsistent play from quarterback Chad Henne. Or bad game plans. Or a struggling interior offensive line.

Most likely, it's a combination of it all. The Dolphins are hoping a new coaching staff on offense, headed by coordinator Brian Daboll, will provide the necessary spark to get this train back on track. Miami has devoted plenty of attention to fixing the problems, most notably through a draft that included much-needed additions at center, running back and wide receiver.

Quarterbacks ▸ Easily one of the most polarizing debates in the south Florida sports scene is the divide regarding Henne's play. At times, he flashes the skills and swagger that make him look like a budding star. But more often than not (especially toward the end of 2010), Henne's depleted confidence steered him into the type of boneheaded mistakes that fueled receiver Brandon Marshall's eventual disapproval.

Unless Henne can regain his confidence—while also figuring out a way to manage the huddle despite Marshall's constant complaints—Miami's offense could find itself in another bad spot. Henne threw too many interceptions (19) and too few touchdowns (15) to give him any leverage with the coaching staff, but it shouldn't all fall on him.

If Henne is ever going to reach his potential, the team is going to need to surround him with dynamic weapons and a more multidimensional offense.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 7-9 HOME: 1-7

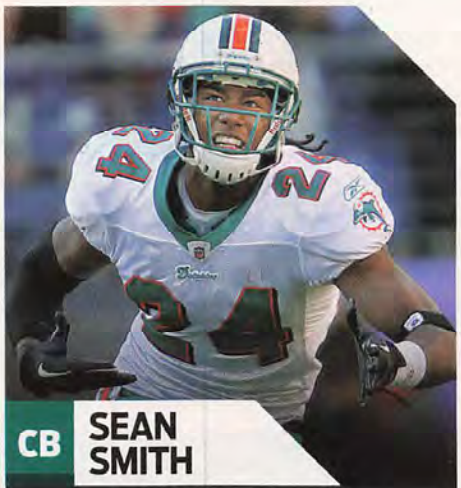
- **ONLINE:** www.miamidolphins.com
- **STADIUM:** Sun Life Stadium

Capacity: 75,540 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 888-FINS-TIX

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Nova Southeastern University, Davie, Fla.; 954-452-7000

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



CB SEAN SMITH

In only two seasons, Smith has seen some major ups and downs. He started his first contest as a rookie but was benched during the first game of his second season. If this is the year Smith finally steadies himself, he could help a defense that needs to make more big plays.

DOLPHINS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Jake Scott *(1970-75)*	35	2	Dick Anderson *(1968-77)*	34	3	Sam Madison *(1997-2005)*	31

JOE RIMKUS JR. / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE PAGE: JASON POHUSKI

AFC EAST

SN PICK 5-11

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Chad Henne Tyler Thigpen
FB	Lousaka Polite
RB	Daniel Thomas Lex Hilliard
LT	Jake Long Lydon Murtha
LG	Richie Incognito Ray Feinga
C	Mike Pouncey Richie Incognito
RG	John Jerry Pat McQuistan
RT	Vernon Carey Lydon Murtha
TE	Anthony Fasano Jeron Mastrud
WR	Brandon Marshall Davone Bess
WR	Brian Hartline Edmond Gates
DEFENSE	
DE	Kendall Langford Tony McDaniel
NT	Randy Starks Paul Soliai
DE	Jared Odrick Phillip Merling
OLB	Koa Misi Ikaika Alama-Francis
ILB	Karlos Dansby Tim Dobbins
ILB	Channing Crowder Austin Spitler
OLB	Cameron Wake Quentin Moses
LCB	Vontae Davis Benny Sapp
SS	Yeremiah Bell Tyrone Culver
FS	Chris Clemons Reshad Jones
RCB	Sean Smith Will Allen
SPECIALISTS	
K	Dan Carpenter
P	Brandon Fields
KR	Patrick Cobbs
PR	Davone Bess
LS	John Denney

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	NEW ENGLAND	SEPT. 12	7:00
WEEK 2	HOUSTON	SEPT. 18	4:15
WEEK 3	@ CLEVELAND	SEPT. 25	1:00
WEEK 4	@ SAN DIEGO	OCT. 2	4:15
WEEK 5	OPEN		
WEEK 6	@ N.Y. JETS	OCT. 17	8:30
WEEK 7	DENVER	OCT. 23	1:00
WEEK 8	@ N.Y. GIANTS	OCT. 30	1:00
WEEK 9	@ KANSAS CITY	NOV. 6	1:00
WEEK 10	WASHINGTON	NOV. 13	1:00
WEEK 11	BUFFALO	NOV. 20	1:00
WEEK 12	@ DALLAS	NOV. 24	4:15
WEEK 13	OAKLAND	DEC. 4	1:00
WEEK 14	PHILADELPHIA	DEC. 11	1:00
WEEK 15	@ BUFFALO	DEC. 18	1:00
WEEK 16	@ NEW ENGLAND	DEC. 24	1:00
WEEK 17	N.Y. JETS	JAN. 1	1:00

W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Otherwise, Henne won't be the only one looking for a new job next year. Sparano will likely be joining him. **GRADE: D**

Running backs ▸ Perhaps the most challenging situation facing Miami during the lockout is the fact that it hasn't been able to secure much stability at running back. Before the end of the season, they chose to pass on the option to sign Ronnie Brown or Ricky Williams, who are pending free agents. That's why the addition of Daniel Thomas in the second round of the 2011 draft could be valuable, provided he can prove capable of making an immediate impact.

So why didn't the Dolphins bring back Brown or Williams before the draft? For starters, Miami didn't believe Brown's breakaway speed merited the contract he was seeking. And Williams' aging body is reaching a point where the Dolphins don't view him as a major threat or durable full-time option.

Thomas looks like an every-down type of back. He'll have every opportunity to earn numerous carries, since Sparano is still insistent that Miami's offense will include plenty of running. **GRADE: D**

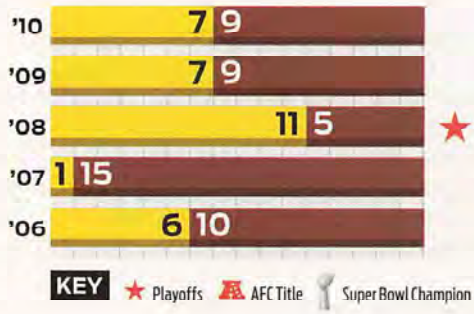
Receivers ▸ Last offseason, the Dolphins gave up a pair of second-round picks to acquire Marshall's insane skills and gaudy statistics. And while Marshall managed to pick up more than 1,000 receiving yards in his first year, he didn't win over many fans with his attitude. Miami now realizes one of its biggest challenges heading into the 2011 season won't simply be finding more passing threats, but also trying to manage the ones currently on the roster.

Davone Bess remains a great asset as the team's slot receiver, and Brian Hartline continued to improve as a yards-after-catch threat in his second season. Roberto Wallace and Marlon Moore are developmental players capable of making an impact this season, too.

Miami also added a speedy deep threat in the draft with a promising prospect in Edmond Gates. But if the Dolphins' passing game is going to succeed in 2011, it's going to require more than statistics. Also needed is camaraderie and selfless play, something that rarely existed in 2010. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸ Left tackle Jake Long is an exceptional player likely to make the Pro Bowl every season if he's healthy for the next eight to 10 years. But aside from him, the Dolphins need to see major improvements here in 2011. As impressive as Long has been, the center and guard positions under Sparano have been underwhelming and disappointing. Entering his fourth year as head coach, the self-proclaimed offensive-line guru now believes he's found some answers, starting with center Mike Pouncey, the 15th overall pick in April's draft.

5-YEAR RECORD: 32-48



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

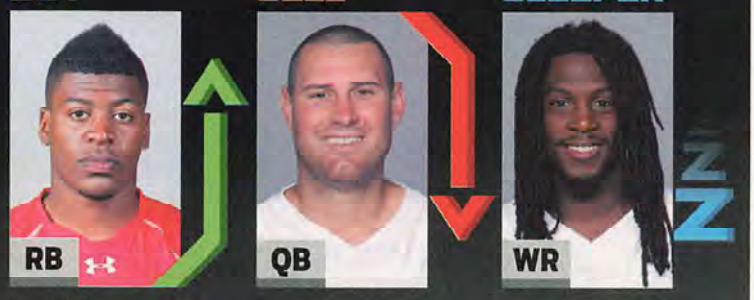
(an opponent breaks down the Dolphins)

"You're going to get some very different opinions about the Dolphins' team depending on what type of person you ask. If you're preparing for the offense, you know you need to find ways to exploit their lack of a deep threat and an inadequate interior offensive line. Unless the Dolphins are able to improve those two areas, they will just be too one-dimensional to be a high-scoring threat. Then again, if you ask an opposing offensive coordinator about them, you'll probably get a whole different reaction. (Defensive coordinator) Mike Nolan did some incredible things for that unit last year, especially considering how badly the group struggled in 2009. But in 2010, they fought their asses off. ...

"If the offense could only produce half of that grit and fight, the Dolphins would be a team capable of making some real waves in the NFL. But until (coach) Tony Sparano finds a way to get that offense to play with more dimensions—whether by adding more speed or just taking more chances in the passing game—they are going to wind up leaving their defense on the field way too long."

FANTASY SPIN

Brandon Marshall's off-field problems have overshadowed his talent of late, but he's still a dominant receiver. He could come as a bargain if other owners are scared away.



aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

GARY ROTHSTEIN / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

DAVONE BESS

"In his third season, Bess might have escalated himself into a tier of slot receivers that includes only a few players, such as (New England's) Wes Welker. Like Welker, you're not getting a player of elite size or speed. Instead, Bess simply runs better routes than just about anybody in the NFL. He is also shifty as hell. Between his quick moves and consistency with his routes, an opposing defender needs to be nearly perfect for a full game to resist getting exploited by Bess' ways. ...

"He requires such intense focus to defend, which is part of the reason why he is so successful on third downs. His focus never wavers and his concentration is elite. That's what will make him a terrific player for many years to come, regardless of his size or overall speed."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	323.1	21
Rushing	102.7	21
Passing	220.4	16
Scoring	273	30
Punt Returns	10.5	13t
Kick Returns	21.4	22
Red Zone TD %	52.9	15
Total Defense	309.3	6
Against Rush	100.1	7
Against Pass	209.2	8
Points Allowed	333	14
Interceptions	11	28
Sacks	39	10t
Turnover Diff.	-12	30

At guard, John Jerry was solid in his first season but still needs considerable development. Richie Incognito could be a suitable option at the other guard spot. It's time for Sparano to lock up a stable unit, and it appears he's close to doing so given the latest devotion to the unit during the draft. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

During all of the turmoil surrounding the Dolphins last season, the defense was immune to a bulk of it. The unit was often exceptional, looking like a group of players that could have made a respectable charge in the playoffs had the offense done enough to get them there. Coordinator Mike Nolan installed a fierce, player-friendly system during his first year in Miami, as the Dolphins ranked sixth in total defense.

Nolan moved away from the pure 3-4 scheme inspired by Bill Parcells' line of thinking. Instead, the Dolphins utilized a hybrid scheme that provided attacks from more creative angles. There is one concern, though: If they perform just as well on defense, Nolan might be gone because he'll get hired as a head coach.

Defensive line ▸ The season ended with a very different group of personnel along the defensive line than initially projected during training camp, but that didn't turn out to be such a bad thing. Instead, it resulted in a breakout season for nose tackle Paul Soliai, who had previously been nothing more than an underachieving talent.

The Dolphins entered the 2010 campaign with a plan to shift Randy Starks from end to nose tackle, while then filling Starks' void with rookie Jared Odrick. But Odrick broke his fibula, ending his season before it began, which resulted in Starks' move back to his old position.

Starks and Kendall Langford had solid years at end, but it was the rise of Soliai that allowed the defensive line to prosper despite the early adversity. The Dolphins signed Soliai to the franchise tag (worth $12.5 million), and will now get Odrick back in the mix. Stocked with young players, Miami should be just fine at this position for several years to come. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ➤ If there's one debate the Dolphins don't mind having regarding their 2010 season, it's this one: Who had the bigger immediate impact between Nolan and linebacker Karlos Dansby? Both newcomers were terrific in their first campaigns with Miami.

Dansby was a constant force, and his chemistry with Channing Crowder at inside linebacker provided the type of leadership that inspired some good defensive football for the Dolphins last year. Add to the equation that outside linebacker Cameron Wake exploded onto the NFL scene with a Pro Bowl season that included 14 sacks, and Miami has some reason for optimism moving forward.

But there's still a need for improvement, as Koa Misi didn't have the impact some had hoped during his rookie season. Still, Misi is young and, with some proper development, could prove to be the starter Miami hopes he'll become. Don't be surprised, however, if he has some competition when training camp arrives. **GRADE: A**

DRAFT REPORT

Everyone expected the Dolphins to nab a running back with their first overall pick, but they surprised by opting for **Mike Pouncey**, who should help fortify a line marked with inconsistency in 2010. He'll start at either center or guard this season and give added protection to quarterback Chad Henne. After improving their offensive line, the Dolphins found a big, strong power back in **Daniel Thomas**. He is smooth and athletic with the power and strength to break tackles to gain yards.

Edmond Gates was productive as a small-school wideout at Abilene Christian. His explosiveness and speed at the NFL Combine were notable, though he is often stiff when running routes. The bargain of the draft came in tight end **Charles Clay**, as he has the hands, athleticism and receiving ability to play in a variety of alignments. But he could struggle blocking NFL defenders.

Pouncey

GRADE C+

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	15	Mike Pouncey	G	6-5	303	Florida
2	30	Daniel Thomas	RB	6-2	230	Kansas State
4	14	Edmund Gates	WR	6-0	192	Abilene Christian
6	9	Charles Clay	FB	6-3	245	Tulsa
7	28	Frank Kearse	DT	6-4	315	Alabama A&M
7	32	Jimmy Wilson	CB	5-11	185	Montana

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	15-10	Buffalo Bills
09/19	W	14-10	Minnesota Vikings
09/26	L	23-31	New York Jets
10/04	L	14-41	New England Patriots
10/17	W	23-20	Green Bay Packers
10/24	L	2-23	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/31	W	22-14	Cincinnati Bengals
11/07	L	10-26	Baltimore Ravens
11/14	W	29-17	Tennessee Titans
11/18	L	0-16	Chicago Bears
11/28	W	33-17	Oakland Raiders
12/05	L	10-13	Cleveland Browns
12/12	W	10-6	New York Jets
12/19	L	14-17	Buffalo Bills
12/26	L	27-34	Detroit Lions
01/02	L	7-38	New England Patriots

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Brown	200	734	3.7	51	5
Williams	159	673	4.2	45	2
Thigpen	13	73	5.6	12	0
Polite	26	62	2.4	4	1
Henne	35	52	1.5	10	0
Hartline	2	27	13.5	30	0
Moore	1	16	16.0	16	0
Curtis	1	6	6.0	6	0
Marshall	2	3	1.5	4	0
Cobbs	4	0	0.0	4	0
Bess	2	-3	-0.2	0	0
MIAMI	**445**	**1643**	**3.7**	**51**	**8**
OPPONENTS	**447**	**1601**	**3.6**	**30**	**8**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Marshall	86	1014	11.8	46	3
Bess	79	820	10.4	29	5
Hartline	43	615	14.3	54	1
Fasano	39	528	13.5	31	4
Brown	33	242	7.3	24	0
Williams	19	141	7.4	28	1
Polite	12	61	5.1	14	0
Cobbs	8	91	11.4	29	2
Moore	6	128	21.3	57	1
Wallace	6	62	10.3	19	0
Shuler	2	44	22.0	28	0
Curtis	1	6	6.0	6	0
Hilliard	1	3	3.0	3	0
MIAMI	**335**	**3755**	**11.2**	**57**	**17**
OPPONENTS	**288**	**3348**	**11.6**	**86**	**22**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Henne	490	301	3301	15	19
Thigpen	62	33	435	2	2
Pennington	2	1	19	0	0
Brown	2	0	0	0	0
Marshall	1	0	0	0	0
MIAMI	**557**	**335**	**3755**	**17**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**502**	**288**	**3573**	**22**	**11**

SACKS MIAMI 38, OPPONENTS 38

Wake 14, Misi 4.5, Dansby 3, Langford 3, Starks 3, McDaniel 2.5, Soliai 2, Bell 1.5, Clemons 1.5, Dobbins 1, Jones 1, Moses 1

CHRIS TROTMAN / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Brandstater, Tom	QB	6-5	223	10/21/84	2	Fresno State
7 Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	230	7/2/85	4	Michigan
10 Pennington, Chad	QB	6-3	225	6/26/76	12	Marshall
16 Thigpen, Tyler	QB	6-1	224	4/14/84	5	Coastal Carolina

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
73 Barbre, Allen	T	6-4	300	6/22/84	5	Missouri Southern State
67 Berger, Joe	T	6-5	311	5/25/82	7	Michigan Tech
72 Carey, Vernon	T	6-5	340	7/31/81	8	Miami (Fla.)
92 Denney, John	LS	6-5	255	12/13/78	7	BYU
69 Feinga, Ray	G	6-4	336	5/8/86	1	BYU
75 Garner, Nate	T	6-7	325	1/18/85	4	Arkansas
68 Incognito, Richie	C	6-3	324	7/5/83	7	Nebraska
74 Jerry, John	G	6-5	328	6/14/86	2	Ole Miss
61 Kopa, Matt	T	6-6	303	2/25/87	2	Stanford
77 Long, Jake	T	6-7	317	5/9/85	4	Michigan
Marten, James	T	6-8	310	4/18/84	3	Boston College
79 McQuistan, Pat	T	6-6	319	4/30/83	6	Weber State
76 Murtha, Lydon	T	6-7	315	11/13/85	3	Nebraska
Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	303	7/24/89	0	Florida
71 Procter, Cory	T	6-4	311	10/18/82	7	Montana

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
23 Brown, Ronnie	RB	6-0	230	12/12/81	7	Auburn
Clay, Charles	RB	6-3	245	12/6/86	0	Tulsa
38 Cobbs, Patrick	RB	5-8	205	1/31/83	6	North Texas
26 Hilliard, Lex	RB	5-11	240	7/30/84	3	Montana
36 Polite, Lousaka	RB	6-0	245	9/14/81	7	Pittsburgh
Sheets, Kory	RB	5-11	206	3/31/85	3	Purdue
Thomas, Daniel	RB	6-0	230	10/29/87	0	Kansas State
34 Williams, Ricky	RB	5-10	230	5/21/77	11	Texas

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
15 Bess, Davone	WR	5-10	190	9/13/85	4	Hawaii
Carter, Patrick	WR	6-3	215	2/6/85	1	Louisville
81 Epps, Dedrick	TE	6-3	250	6/19/88	1	Miami (Fla.)
80 Fasano, Anthony	TE	6-4	255	4/20/84	6	Notre Dame
Foster, Brooks	WR	6-1	204	4/9/86	2	North Carolina
Gates, Edmund	WR	6-0	192	6/13/86	0	Abilene Christian
82 Hartline, Brian	WR	6-2	186	11/22/86	3	Ohio State
81 Haynos, Joey	TE	6-8	270	8/28/84	4	Maryland
19 Marshall, Brandon	WR	6-4	230	3/23/84	6	UCF
88 Mastrud, Jeron	TE	6-6	253	12/17/87	2	Kansas State
14 Moore, Marlon	WR	6-0	190	9/3/87	2	Fresno State
11 Pruitt, Julius	WR	6-2	206	12/30/85	1	Ouachita Baptist
86 Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-4	247	10/9/86	2	Penn State
18 Wallace, Roberto	WR	6-4	225	5/10/86	2	San Diego State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Alama-Francis, Ikaika	DE	6-5	290	12/4/84	5	Hawaii
95 Baker, Chris	DE	6-2	329	10/8/87	3	Hampton
90 Baker, Ryan	DE	6-5	295	11/25/84	3	Purdue
95 Dotson, Lionel	DT	6-4	290	2/11/85	4	Arizona
Kearse, Frank	DT	6-4	315	10/28/88	0	Alabama A&M
70 Langford, Kendall	DE	6-6	290	1/27/86	4	Hampton
78 McDaniel, Tony	DT	6-7	310	1/20/85	6	Tennessee
97 Merling, Phillip	DE	6-4	295	4/19/85	3	Clemson
93 Moses, Quentin	DE	6-5	260	11/18/83	5	Georgia
98 Odrick, Jared	DT	6-5	304	12/31/87	2	Penn State
56 Rose, Robert	DE	6-4	297	12/24/87	1	Ohio State
96 Soliai, Paul	DT	6-4	355	12/30/83	5	Utah
94 Starks, Randy	DT	6-3	305	12/14/83	8	Maryland

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25 Allen, Will	CB	5-10	195	8/5/78	11	Syracuse
40 Amaya, Jonathon	S	6-2	190	11/25/88	2	Nevada
37 Bell, Yeremiah	S	6-0	205	3/3/78	8	Eastern Kentucky
28 Carroll, Nolan	CB	5-11	202	1/16/87	2	Maryland
30 Clemons, Chris	S	6-1	210	9/15/85	3	Clemson
29 Culver, Tyrone	S	6-1	210	7/6/83	6	Fresno State
21 Davis, Vontae	CB	5-11	203	5/27/88	3	Illinois
20 Jones, Reshad	S	6-1	214	2/25/88	2	Georgia
31 Ness, Nate	S	6-1	190	9/5/86	2	Arizona
27 Sapp, Benny	CB	5-9	190	1/20/81	8	Northern Iowa
24 Smith, Sean	CB	6-3	214	7/14/87	3	Utah
Wilson, Jimmy	CB	5-11	185	7/30/86	0	Montana

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52 Crowder, Channing	LB	6-2	250	12/2/83	7	Florida
58 Dansby, Karlos	LB	6-4	250	11/3/81	8	Auburn
51 Dobbins, Tim	LB	6-1	246	12/10/82	6	Iowa State
49 Edds, A.J.	LB	6-4	246	9/18/87	2	Iowa
55 Misi, Koa	LB	6-3	251	1/17/87	2	Utah
Restelli, Mark	LB	6-2	215	3/4/86	0	Cal Poly
57 Rivera, Mike	LB	6-2	252	1/10/86	1	Kansas
53 Spitler, Austin	LB	6-2	243	10/26/86	2	Ohio State
91 Wake, Cameron	LB	6-3	250	1/30/82	3	Penn State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Carpenter, Dan	K	6-2	225	11/25/85	4	Montana
2 Fields, Brandon	P	6-5	245	5/21/84	5	Michigan State

TONY SPARANO, Head coach

Brian Daboll, offensive coordinator; **Mike Nolan,** defensive coordinator; **Darren Rizzi,** special teams coordinator; **Todd Bowles,** asst. head coach/secondary; **Steve Bush,** wide receivers; **Dan Campbell,** tight ends; **David Corrao,** asst. linebackers; **Bryan Cox,** pass rush; **Joe Danna,** asst. secondary; **Dave DeGuglielmo,** offensive line; **Karl Dorrell,** quarterbacks; **Dave Fipp,** asst. special teams; **Ike Hilliard,** asst. wide receivers; **Jeff Nixon,** running backs; **Kacy Rodgers,** defensive line; **Bill Sheridan,** linebackers

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TONY SPARANO

Two words best summarize the Dolphins' 2010 season: field goals. Sparano settled for far too many of them, failing to take the necessary risks to get the football in the end zone. While Sparano isn't likely to change his root philosophies in the coming season, his job could depend on whether those conservative tendencies loosen up—even if just a little.

Secondary ▸ If only cornerback Sean Smith would have caught as many passes that hit his hands last season, he would have gained a Pro Bowl berth. But just like the unit in 2010, Smith left Dolphins fans with a taste of his potential and a desire to see more production in the coming season. Vontae Davis also seemed to be on the brink of a huge season but struggled near the end, creating a similar sentiment.

The decision to retain Will Allen for another season should add some important depth and competition. Yeremiah Bell remains a strong leader at safety, while Chris Clemons seemed to grow during his first year as a starter. Although the Dolphins want to see more big plays out of this unit this season, it seems reasonable to feel good about those chances—especially considering the youth of most of the players in the team's secondary. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sparano decided to fire special teams coach John Bonamego in October, but didn't have much of a choice. The Dolphins put together one of the worst performances in NFL history against the Patriots, as two blocked kicks led to touchdowns and Miami also allowed a 102-yard kickoff return for a score. Bonamego was fired the day after that game and, while it might not have been entirely his fault, somebody had to take the fall.

Fortunately for everyone else who survived, the group did at least manage to avoid any similar disasters for the remainder of the season—although the coverage and return specialists were never really strong. The Dolphins did get some solid play out of kicker Dan Carpenter.

That said, the team would prefer to see Carpenter kick more extra points than field goals in 2011, as it would rather be scoring touchdowns. The unit needs to see some serious improvement during training camp—particularly in the coverage areas —if the Dolphins are to avoid losing any more games at the hands of the special teams. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

With a new offensive coordinator and an offense that needs to be more cohesive, the Dolphins needed a full offseason to get the bad taste of 2010 out of their mouths. Without being able to do so, it's difficult to project much in terms of optimism for this group going forward.

And considering the competitive state of the AFC East, it likely means the Dolphins will be fighting desperately to reach .500 by season's end.

72 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT

STEADY

4

AFC EAST

SN PICK 4-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick Levi Brown
FB	Corey McIntyre Jehuu Caulcrick
RB	Fred Jackson C.J. Spiller
LT	Demetrius Bell Ed Wang
LG	Andy Levitre Cordaro Howard
C	Geoff Hangartner Kraig Urbik
RG	Eric Wood Chad Rinehart
RT	Erik Pears Chris Hairston
TE	Shawn Nelson Jonathan Stupar
WR	Lee Evans David Nelson
WR	Steve Johnson Roscoe Parrish
DEFENSE	
DE	Marcell Dareus Alex Carrington
NT	Kyle Williams Torell Troup
DE	Dwan Edwards Spencer Johnson
OLB	Chris Kelsay Aaron Maybin
ILB	Paul Posluszny Chris White
ILB	Andra Davis Kelvin Sheppard
OLB	Shawne Merriman Arthur Moats
LCB	Leodis McKelvin Reggie Corner
SS	George Wilson Da'Norris Searcy
FS	Jairus Byrd George Wilson
RCB	Terrence McGee Aaron Williams
SPECIALISTS	
K	Rian Lindell
P	Brian Moorman
KR	C.J. Spiller
PR	Roscoe Parrish
LS	Garrison Sanborn

Bills could find themselves grazing again in competitive AFC East

By Allen Wilson *Buffalo News*

A new general manager, a new head coach and a new direction brought the same old results for the Bills last season, as they endured another losing record, another playoff absence and another year in the AFC East cellar.

Year 2 of the Buddy Nix/Chan Gailey era should see the team build on some of the positives from 2010.

Gailey's offense showed life with Ryan Fitzpatrick at quarterback and the surprise emergence of a young receiving corps. The defense added reinforcements to the front seven, where they were desperately needed.

What does all this mean for 2011? No one should make postseason plans, as rebuilding this franchise will take time.

OFFENSE

Despite finishing in the bottom eight of the NFL in yards gained for an eighth straight season, the Bills' offense was finally palatable, as Gailey got the most out of the talent. With the players having a year to absorb his system, Gailey is expected to expand his playbook in 2011. He prefers a balanced offense, but the passing game was the team's strength, so he emphasized it more. Look for him to get more out of the running game this season.

Quarterbacks ▸ The Bills' decision not to address this position in the draft tells you how much confidence they have in Ryan Fitzpatrick. Gailey made a controversial decision to open last season with Trent Edwards, but smartly turned to Fitzpatrick, who threw for 3,000 yards and 23 touchdowns.

Edwards brings intangibles such as intelligence, grit and respect to the locker room. However, his accuracy needs to get better and, while the team likes his gunslinger mentality, he takes some unnecessary chances with the ball.

Free agent Brian Brohm has shown in brief, uninspired appearances that he is nothing more than a backup. Levi Brown has a good arm but is a project who will take time to develop. **GRADE: C**

Running backs ▸ After a failed attempt to incorporate three backs, the Bills shipped Marshawn Lynch to Seattle in October. That opened the door for Fred Jackson to regain the starting job he earned the previous season, when he topped 1,000 yards. He finished 2010 with 927 yards, but that wasn't too bad considering he barely saw the field in the first four games. Jackson isn't flashy, but few backs in the league are better at maximizing every ounce of their ability.

C.J. Spiller was supposed to give the offense more sizzle, but finished his rookie year with only 283 rushing yards. While he showed flashes of his blazing speed and elusiveness, Spiller needs to take a page from Jackson's book on being patient and setting up blocks. Gailey plans to expand Spiller's

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

RB C.J. SPILLER

Spiller is not built for the pounding an every-down back takes, but the speedster is capable of big plays every time he touches the ball. If Bills coach Chan Gailey follows through on his promise to use Spiller's skills as a runner and receiver more often in 2011, the results could be electric.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 4-12 HOME: 2-6

- **ONLINE:** www.buffalobills.com
- **STADIUM:** Ralph Wilson Stadium

Capacity: 73,079 **Turf:** AstroPlay

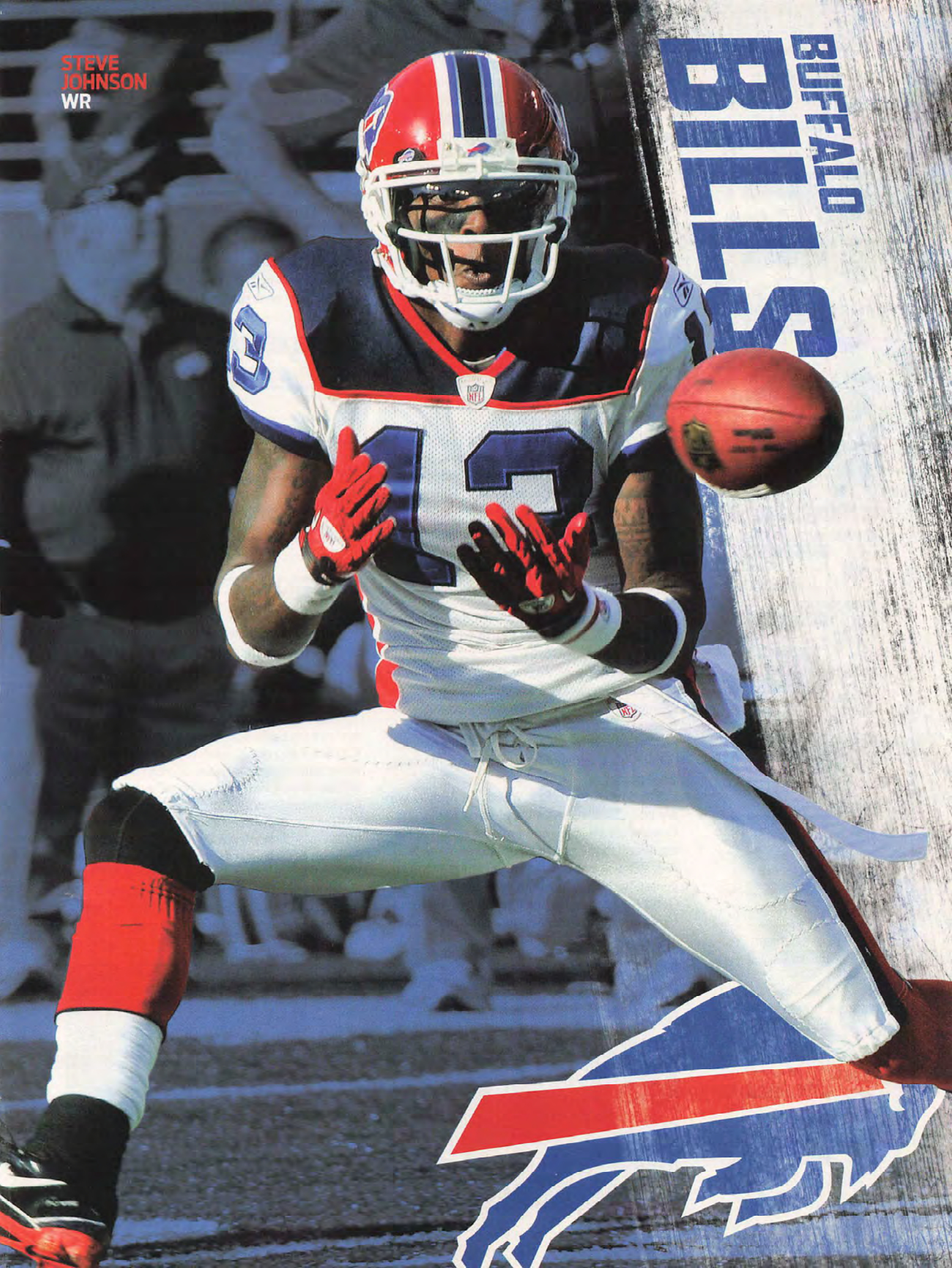
Tickets: 877-BB-TICKS

- **TRAINING CAMP:** St. John Fisher College. Pittsford, N.Y.; 585-218-7500

BILLS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Butch Byrd (1964-1970)	40	2	Tony Greene (1971-79)	37	3	Mark Kelso (1986-93)	30

KELLEN MICAH / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: TOMASSO DEROSA


STEVE
JOHNSON
WR
BUFFALO
BILLS

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ KANSAS CITY	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	OAKLAND	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	NEW ENGLAND	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	@ CINCINNATI	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	PHILADELPHIA	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	@ N.Y. GIANTS	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	OPEN			
WEEK 8	WASHINGTON*	OCT. 30	4:05	W / L
WEEK 9	N.Y. JETS	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	@ DALLAS	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ MIAMI	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	@ N.Y. JETS	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	TENNESSEE	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ SAN DIEGO	DEC. 11	4:15	W / L
WEEK 15	MIAMI	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	DENVER	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	@NEW ENGLAND	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

*in Toronto

role this season, and that's a good idea since he's the most explosive player on the roster.

It was a bit of a surprise to see the Bills draft another running back, but North Carolina's Johnny White could turn out to be a fifth-round steal. He's a tough, instinctive runner with outstanding receiving skills and has experience returning kicks. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ➤ Steve Johnson was a major revelation last year, as he led the team with 82 catches for 1,073 yards and 10 touchdowns. He's an improved route-runner and physical enough to beat press coverage, but also had too many dropped passes last season.

Lee Evans draws double-teams because of his deep speed, but he's coming off a career-worst year because teams are able to neutralize him as solely a vertical threat along the sideline.

Before breaking his wrist in Week 9, Roscoe Parrish was enjoying a rebirth—once the coaches figured out how to take advantage of his explosive short-area quickness and open-field elusiveness. David Nelson provides a big target (6-5, 217 pounds) in the slot. Marcus Easley, whose rookie year ended with a knee injury in training camp, is an athletic playmaker who will challenge for playing time, while Donald Jones and Naaman Roosevelt add depth.

Tight ends were nonexistent in the passing game a year ago. Shawn Nelson has been a disappointment, and now he's battling migraines. The team hopes the 2009 fourth-rounder figures it out. **GRADE: C+**

Offensive line ➤ As was the case in 2009, the team struggled to find continuity on the line as injuries forced the Bills to play—and in some cases start—guys signed off the street. Pass protection was better with the help of Fitzpatrick's quick release and mobility, but the run blocking was spotty.

Third-year guards Eric Wood and Andy Levitre are keepers. They're tough, physical and nasty. Coming off a horrific compound fracture of his leg, Wood didn't miss a game and even made four starts at center last year. Keeping Wood at center, his college position, was considered, but Geoff Hangartner has been reliable there. Kraig Urbik and Chad Rinehart were solid midseason signees who provide depth at guard and center.

Left tackle Demetrius Bell has solid athleticism and footwork, but also enough inconsistency to make you wonder if he's the long-term answer. The bigger issue is right tackle, where four different players started in 2010. Erik Pears, Cordaro Howard, Ed Wang, Jason Watkins and Mansfield Wrotto are less-than-inspiring candidates. **GRADE: D+**

DEFENSE

Gailey installed the 3-4 scheme last season, but he didn't have the personnel to play it

5-YEAR RECORD: 31-49

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Bills)

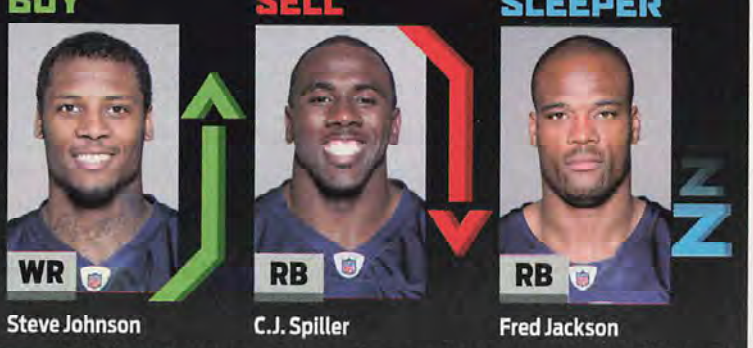
"They got off to an awful start (0-8), but kept fighting. That's a credit to (coach) Chan Gailey. That team played hard for him. I questioned some of his initial decisions at quarterback and going to a 3-4 (defense), but he was smart to make changes where they were needed. ...

"Ryan Fitzpatrick won't make anybody's All-Pro team, but he's a good, solid quarterback. (Fred) Jackson and (C.J.) Spiller are a nice 1-2 punch, and their receivers were better than I thought they would be. I don't think their offensive line is good enough, although (guard) Eric Wood is a player. But Gailey's got some good skill people. ...

"I can't say the same thing about the defense. I'd love to have (nose tackle) Kyle Williams and (linebacker Paul) Posluszny on my team and there's talent in the secondary. But most of their front-seven guys are very average. It will be interesting to see what Shawne Merriman gives them. I'm skeptical that he has something left, but if he's half the player he once was he'll be a big upgrade."

FANTASY SPIN

Ryan Fitzpatrick played well enough to be a fantasy starter at QB in the first half of last season, but then struggled late. He's a nice fantasy backup because of his running ability.



aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

RICK STEWART / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

KYLE WILLIAMS

"In my opinion, Kyle Williams is the Bills' best player. I didn't say most talented player; I said best player. There's a difference. There are guys on that team with better physical ability, but none of them gets as much out of their ability as Williams. ...

"He doesn't wow you with great athleticism, and he's built like a fire hydrant. But he is tough to block because he is so strong. He plays with good leverage and he surprises people with how quick he is. He can be blocked if you get two hands on him, but he's really good at anticipating the snap count and shooting the gap before the lineman can engage him. ... He's not going to win a lot of battles when he has to play head-up on good centers. But the Bills were wise to use him like the one-gap, 4-3 defensive tackle he really is."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	304.9	25
Rushing	107.5	18
Passing	197.4	24
Scoring	283	28
Punt Returns	10.5	13t
Kick Returns	21.1	24
Red Zone TD %	51.4	18
Total Defense	361.6	24
Against Rush	169.6	32
Against Pass	192.0	3
Points Allowed	425	28
Interceptions	11	28t
Sacks	27	27t
Turnover Diff.	-17	32

effectively. As a result, the Bills allowed the second-most points (26.5 per game) and the second-most rushing yards (169.6 per game) in team history. Coordinator George Edwards ultimately went to a hybrid system that featured three- and four-man fronts. Look for more of the same this season because that's what the talent dictates.

The hiring of former NFL head coach/defensive coordinator Dave Wannstedt as a defensive assistant raised speculation that Edwards' job was in jeopardy. But Edwards remains in charge, though Wannstedt will have input.

Defensive line ▸ The key to any run defense is a stout front line. The Bills didn't have that last season, which is why they finished last in the NFL against the run. The only sustained production came from nose tackle Kyle Williams, who appeared in his first Pro Bowl.

The Bills got Williams some big-time help in the draft with first-round pick Marcell Dareus. Blessed with remarkable quickness for his size, Dareus has all the physical tools to be a disruptive force from Day 1. He also gives the team flexibility because he can play end or nose tackle.

Backup Torell Troup brings size to the line, while end Dwan Edwards had a decent year that was cut short by a leg injury. The Bills could use more big plays from him. End Marcus Stroud was released to open a spot for second-year pro Alex Carrington, who is versatile enough to play in the 3-4 or 4-3. He also has pass-rushing ability. **GRADE: C-**

Linebackers ▸ This unit was underwhelming last season and must step up its

game this time around. An anemic pass rush will get a boost if outside linebacker Shawne Merriman recaptures the form that made him one of the NFL's most feared defenders. But can he come back from three injury-plagued and unproductive years? Chris Kelsay should be more comfortable at outside linebacker after the career defensive end looked out of his element playing there a season ago.

Inside linebacker Paul Posluszny (a restricted free agent) is not a great athlete, but he plays with high effort and good instincts. Third-round pick Kelvin Sheppard is a physical and athletic inside thumper who could win a starting job over veteran leader Andra Davis, who was limited to six games in 2010 with a torn labrum in his shoulder. Rookie Chris White has terrific instincts and the right mental makeup to succeed.

Reggie Torbor, Arthur Moats and Aaron Maybin are the primary backups. Torbor can play all four linebacker spots, while Moats flashed his outside pass-rush potential on a hit that ended Brett Favre's NFL-record consecutive starts streak. And it's now or never for Maybin, who has looked like a first-round bust because his exceptional athleticism hasn't overcome a lack of strength and instincts. **GRADE: D-**

Secondary ▸ The only sure starter at cornerback is Leodis McKelvin, who has outstanding speed and athleticism but needs to improve inconsistent techniques and overly aggressive ways to fully realize his potential. The Bills

DRAFT REPORT

The Bills made a wise decision by drafting **Marcell Dareus**, as he will be an ideal fit in their defense. Dareus is versatile enough to play end in their base 3-4 scheme, slide inside to play nose tackle or fill in at end or tackle in a four-man front. With his playing strength, athleticism, technique and competitive drive, expect Dareus to start early in his career.

The second round saw the Bills select cornerback **Aaron Williams**, who stepped into a starting role at Texas after beginning his senior season as a reserve but didn't produce many big plays and doesn't flash the potential to be a productive starter in the NFL. **Kelvin Sheppard** is an athletic linebacker who plays well against the run and in coverage, but poor instincts hinder his potential. The Bills made three solid picks late with safety **Da'Norris Searcy**, running back **Johnny White** and corner **Justin Rogers**. Searcy and Rogers could become starters in time, and White projects as a decent third-down back and special teams player.

Dareus

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	3	Marcell Dareus	DT	6-3	319	Alabama
2	2	Aaron Williams	CB	6-1	195	Texas
3	4	Kelvin Sheppard	ILB	6-2	250	LSU
4	3	Da'Norris Searcy	SS	6-0	210	North Carolina
4	25	Chris Hairston	OT	6-6	326	Clemson
5	2	Johnny White	RB	5-10	209	North Carolina
6	4	Chris White	ILB	6-3	224	Mississippi State
7	3	Justin Rogers	CB	5-11	183	Richmond
7	42	Michael Jasper	DT	6-4	394	Bethel (Tenn.)

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	10-15	Miami Dolphins
09/19	L	7-34	Green Bay Packers
09/26	L	30-38	New England Patriots
10/03	L	14-38	New York Jets
10/10	L	26-36	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/24	L	34-37	Baltimore Ravens
10/31	L	10-13	Kansas City Chiefs
11/07	L	19-22	Chicago Bears
11/14	W	14-12	Detroit Lions
11/21	W	49-12	Cincinnati Bengals
11/28	L	16-19	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/05	L	14-38	Minnesota Vikings
12/12	W	13-6	Cleveland Browns
12/19	W	17-14	Miami Dolphins
12/26	L	3-34	New England Patriots
01/02	L	7-38	New York Jets

WON 4, LOST 12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	222	927	4.2	39	5
Spiller	74	283	3.8	20	0
Fitzpatrick	40	269	6.7	22	0
Lynch	37	164	4.4	17	0
Edwards	5	24	4.8	8	0
Parrish	3	23	7.7	13	0
Ganther	9	18	2.0	11	0
McIntyre	4	5	1.3	2	1
Roosevelt	1	3	3.0	3	0
Caulcrick	1	2	2.0	2	0
Jones	3	1	0.3	2	0
Moorman	2	1	0.5	1	0
BUFFALO	**401**	**1720**	**4.3**	**39**	**6**
OPPONENTS	**571**	**2714**	**4.8**	**43**	**18**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	82	1073	13.1	45	10
Evans	37	578	15.6	54	4
Parrish	33	400	12.1	37	2
Jackson	31	215	6.9	65	2
Nelson	31	353	11.4	37	3
Spiller	24	157	6.5	41	1
Jones	18	213	11.8	40	1
Stupar	12	111	9.3	35	0
Roosevelt	9	139	15.4	30	0
Martin	7	43	6.1	15	1
McIntyre	4	32	8.0	14	0
Nelson	3	25	8.3	12	0
Ganther	2	9	4.5	8	0
Lynch	1	7	7.0	7	0
Chandler	1	8	8.0	8	0
Hubbard	1	8	8.0	8	0
BUFFALO	**296**	**3371**	**11.4**	**65**	**24**
OPPONENTS	**294**	**3072**	**10.4**	**52**	**28**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Fitzpatrick	441	255	3000	23	15
Edwards	52	29	241	1	2
Brohm	23	10	106	0	3
Brown	3	2	24	0	1
BUFFALO	**519**	**296**	**3371**	**24**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**473**	**294**	**3253**	**28**	**11**

SACKS BUFFALO 27, OPPONENTS 34

Williams 5.5, Kelsay 3.5, Scott 3, Stroud 3, Moats 2.5, Johnson 2, Posluszny 2, Byrd 1, Carrington 1, Corner 1, Edwards 1, Ellis 1, Whitner 0.5

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Brohm, Brian	QB	6-3	223	9/23/85	4	Louisville
10 Brown, Levi	QB	6-4	225	3/11/87	2	Troy
14 Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	225	11/24/82	6	Harvard

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77 Bell, Demetrius	T	6-5	307	5/3/84	3	Northwestern State
74 Brown, Colin	T	6-7	335	8/29/85	2	Missouri
Hairston, Chris	T	6-6	326	4/26/89	0	Clemson
63 Hangartner, Geoff	C	6-5	301	4/22/82	7	Texas A&M
68 Howard, Cordaro	G	6-4	314	7/2/87	2	Georgia Tech
67 Levitre, Andy	G	6-2	305	5/15/86	3	Oregon State
79 Pears, Erik	T	6-8	305	4/21/82	5	Colorado State
76 Rinehart, Chad	G	6-5	310	5/4/85	3	Northern Iowa
65 Sanborn, Garrison	C	6-1	253	7/31/85	3	Florida State
60 Urbik, Kraig	T	6-5	323	9/23/85	3	Wisconsin
71 Wang, Ed	T	6-5	314	3/12/87	2	Virginia Tech
66 Watkins, Jason	T	6-6	325	6/10/85	1	Florida
70 Wood, Eric	C	6-4	315	3/18/86	3	Louisville
61 Wrotto, Mansfield	G	6-3	313	10/12/84	5	Georgia Tech

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
30 Caulcrick, Jehuu	RB	6-0	250	8/6/83	2	Michigan State
25 Ganther, Quinton	RB	5-9	220	7/15/84	6	Utah
22 Jackson, Fred	RB	6-1	215	2/20/81	5	Coe
38 McIntyre, Corey	RB	6-0	245	1/25/79	7	West Virginia
21 Spiller, C.J.	RB	5-11	196	8/5/87	2	Clemson
White, Johnny	RB	5-10	209	2/3/88	0	North Carolina

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
82 Caussin, Mike	TE	6-5	252	2/26/87	1	James Madison
84 Chandler, Scott	TE	6-7	272	7/23/85	3	Iowa
81 Easley, Marcus	WR	6-2	207	11/2/87	2	Connecticut
83 Evans, Lee	WR	5-10	197	3/11/81	8	Wisconsin
17 Hubbard, Paul	WR	6-2	225	6/12/85	1	Wisconsin
Huggins, Felton	WR	6-2	186	2/15/83	3	Southeastern Louisiana
13 Johnson, Steve	WR	6-2	202	7/22/86	4	Kentucky
19 Jones, Donald	WR	6-0	214	12/17/87	2	Youngstown State
80 Martin, David	TE	6-4	265	3/13/79	10	Tennessee
86 Nelson, David	WR	6-5	217	11/7/86	2	Florida
89 Nelson, Shawn	TE	6 5	240	10/5/85	3	Southern Miss
11 Parrish, Roscoe	WR	5-9	178	7/16/82	7	Miami (Fla.)
18 Roosevelt, Naaman	WR	6-0	189	12/24/87	2	Buffalo
88 Stupar, Jonathan	TE	6-3	254	7/24/84	3	Virginia
37 Wilson, George	WR	6-0	212	3/14/81	6	Arkansas

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Carrington, Alex	DE	6-5	284	6/19/87	2	Arkansas State
59 Coleman, Antonio	DE	6-1	248	9/1/86	2	Auburn
Dareus, Marcell	DT	6-3	319	11/18/89	0	Alabama
98 Edwards, Dwan	DT	6-3	290	5/16/81	7	Oregon State
72 Heard, Kellen	DT	6-6	355	10/17/85	1	Memphis
Jasper, Michael	DT	6-4	394	10/8/86	0	Bethel (Tenn.)
91 Johnson, Spencer	DT	6-3	286	12/12/81	8	Auburn
90 Kelsay, Chris	DE	6-4	261	10/31/79	9	Nebraska
Kirlew, Jammie	DE	6-3	260	5/12/87	1	Indiana
58 Maybin, Aaron	DE	6-4	250	4/6/88	3	Penn State
97 McCargo, John	DT	6-2	307	8/19/83	6	N.C. State
53 Torbor, Reggie	DE	6-2	250	1/25/81	8	Auburn
96 Troup, Torell	DT	6-3	315	6/23/87	2	UCF
95 Williams, Kyle	DT	6-1	306	6/10/83	6	LSU

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
31 Byrd, Jairus	S	5-10	200	10/7/86	3	Oregon
27 Corner, Reggie	CB	5-9	175	11/17/83	4	Akron
33 Corto, Jon	S	6-1	220	9/3/84	4	Sacred Heart
29 Florence, Drayton	CB	6-0	195	12/19/80	9	Tuskegee
24 McGee, Terrence	CB	5-9	198	10/14/80	9	Northwestern State
28 McKelvin, Leodis	CB	5-10	184	9/1/85	4	Troy
Rogers, Justin	CB	5-11	183	1/16/88	0	Richmond
43 Scott, Bryan	S	6-1	219	4/13/81	9	Penn State
Searcy, Da'Norris	S	6-0	210	11/16/88	0	North Carolina
20 Whitner, Donte	S	5-10	208	7/24/85	6	Ohio State
Williams, Aaron	CB	6-1	195	4/23/90	0	Texas
26 Youboty, Ashton	CB	5-11	189	7/7/84	6	Ohio State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Ayodele, Akin	LB	6-2	245	9/17/79	10	Purdue
57 Batten, Danny	LB	6-4	250	12/8/87	2	South Dakota State
54 Davis, Andra	LB	6-1	251	12/23/78	10	Florida
56 Ellison, Keith	LB	6-0	229	2/6/84	6	Oregon State
55 Merriman, Shawne	LB	6-4	265	5/25/84	7	Maryland
52 Moats, Arthur	LB	6-0	250	3/14/88	2	James Madison
51 Posluszny, Paul	LB	6-1	238	10/10/84	5	Penn State
Sheppard, Kelvin	LB	6-2	250	1/2/88	0	LSU
White, Chris	LB	6-3	224	1/15/89	0	Mississippi State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Lindell, Rian	K	6-3	233	1/20/77	12	Washington State
8 Moorman, Brian	P	6-0	172	2/5/76	11	Pittsburg State

CHAN GAILEY, Head coach

Curtis Modkins, offensive coordinator/running backs; **George Edwards,** defensive coordinator; **Bruce DeHaven,** special teams coordinator; **Dave Wannstedt,** asst. head coach/inside linebackers; **Bob Bicknell,** tight ends; **George Catavolos,** secondary; **George Cortez,** quarterbacks; **Joe D'Alessandris,** offensive line; **Stan Hixon,** wide receivers; **Bobby Johnson,** asst. offensive line; **Stan Kwan,** asst. special teams; **Bob Sanders,** outside linebackers; **Giff Smith,** defensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

DT Marcus Stroud (FA/ Patriots), **LB Pierre Woods** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

CHAN GAILEY

Gailey is anything but conservative in his approach. He is an aggressive tactician who likes taking shots downfield. He isn't afraid to empty the backfield and use four- and five-receiver formations—even if it exposes his shaky offensive line. The defense didn't blitz much early because the players were adjusting to a 3-4 system. But Buffalo attacked more as the season wore on, as the four-man rush wasn't generating enough pressure.

hope Terrence McGee can bounce back from a nerve problem in his leg that limited him last year. When healthy, he's a solid cover corner.

Rookie Aaron Williams is expected to contribute immediately. He brings size and toughness and is an aggressive tackler. He can also play safety, which may be an option down the road. Williams and Reggie Corner, a quick, tenacious player, will compete for the nickel spot.

Free safety Jairus Byrd took a step back from his Pro Bowl rookie year in 2009. He went from nine interceptions to one and got caught out of position on downfield pass plays. He's got range and ball skills, but needs to be more consistent. George Wilson has started games at free and strong safety. He's a savvy, competitive player who diagnoses plays well and makes solid tackles. Jon Corto, whose career has been limited to special teams, has enough experience to step in if needed.

With strong safety Donte Whitner likely leaving via free agency, the Bills hoped they found his replacement in rookie Da'Norris Searcy of North Carolina. He can play either safety position. Bryan Scott is best near the line of scrimmage, where his size and physicality are assets. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Spiller's explosiveness was evident on a 95-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in Week 3. Parrish is a dynamic punt returner with a knack for making people miss, while McKelvin is a threat to score whenever he touches the ball—but just as prone to mishandling it.

Kicker Rian Lindell made 16 of 21 field goal attempts, but had some critical misses along with the first missed extra point of his career. Count on punter Brian Moorman bouncing back from his worst season when he averaged just 36.6 net yards, 22nd in the league. **GRADE: B**

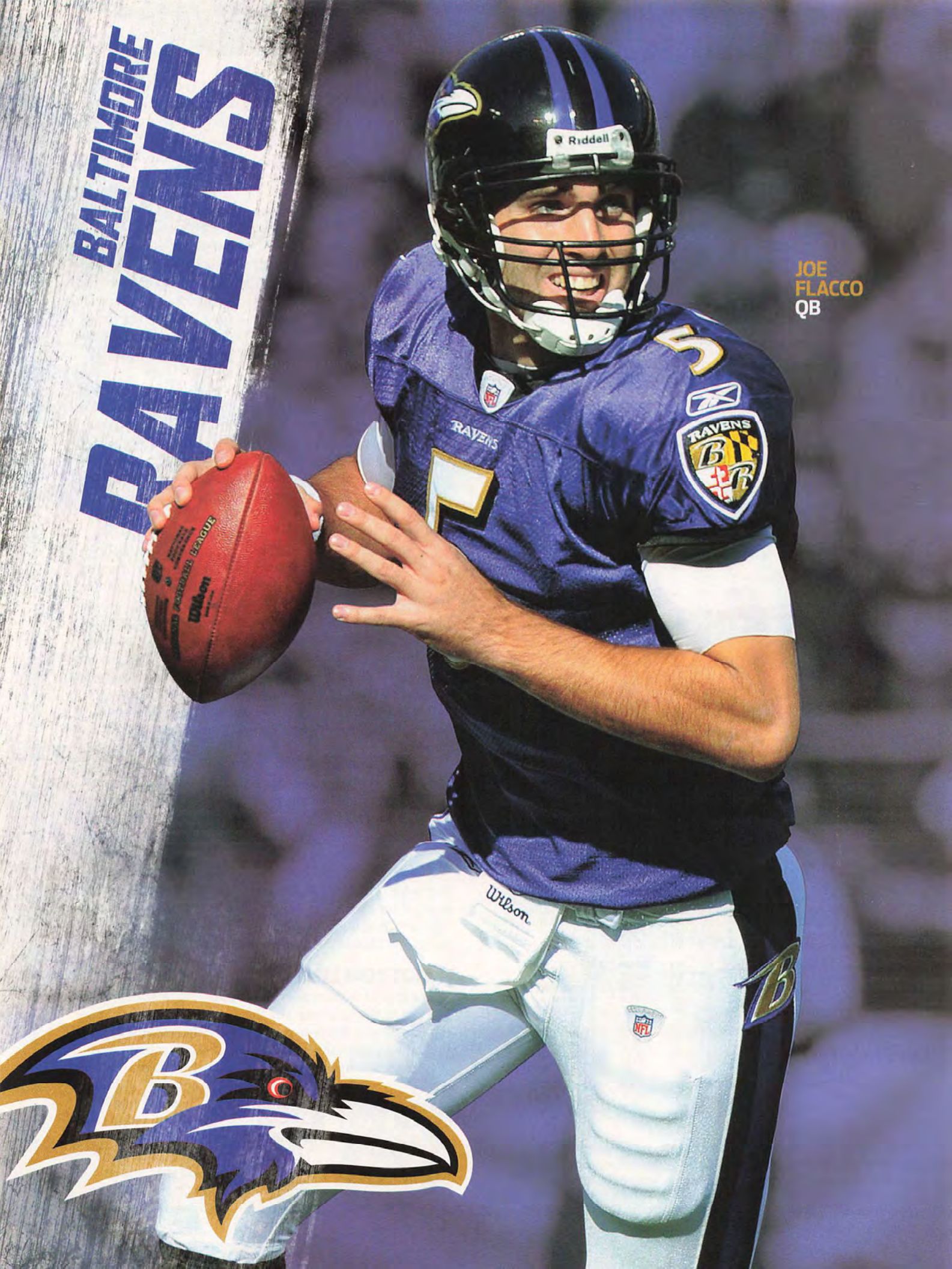
BOTTOM LINE

The lack of talent was evident in the Bills' 4-12 record last season. All the holes can't be filled in one year, though, so the outcome of this season will depend on veterans stepping up and recent draft picks living up to expectations.

Buffalo also has to fare better in the AFC East, where it has lost 15 of the last 18 games and is 1-11 over the past two campaigns. It's hard to imagine anything better than a third-place finish given the competition.

68 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: UP


BALTIMORE
RAVENS
JOE
FLACCO
QB

Cameron holds key to whether Ravens' offense can soar like never before

By Mike Preston *Baltimore Sun*

There are no more options left for Ravens offensive coordinator Cam Cameron. Either he fixes the offense this season, or he'll be looking for a new job.

Cameron, in his fourth season as coordinator, got a reprieve from owner Steve Bisciotti after last season. If not for the threat of a league lockout, Bisciotti probably would have forced head coach John Harbaugh to fire Cameron.

"John's feeling is we like Cam under fire as our offensive coordinator," Bisciotti says.

Read whatever you want into that statement. But last season the Ravens gave Cameron receivers Anquan Boldin, T.J. Houshmandzadeh and Donte' Stallworth to complement a running game that had been one of the league's best in 2008 and '09, and the results were disappointing. It can't be the same in 2011. If so, Cameron won't be around for 2012.

OFFENSE

Harbaugh lobbied Bisciotti to keep Cameron for another season, but Bisciotti also mandated that Harbaugh learn more about the offense.

So during the offseason, the offense was stripped down, and Harbaugh is expected to be more accountable. The Ravens want to add more explosive plays, so that means giving quarterback Joe Flacco increased involvement in the decision-making and game-planning.

Quarterbacks ▸ The Ravens want Flacco as their quarterback of the future, and this is the year he has to prove it.

Flacco has two years remaining on the original contract he signed in 2008 when the Ravens made him their first-round draft pick out of the University of Delaware.

During the offseason, Flacco wanted a contract extension, but the Ravens said they wouldn't negotiate one until after the 2011 season. Those actions showed that while the Ravens have high praise for Flacco, they still aren't sure he is their quarterback of the future.

Still, he has impressive numbers. In just three seasons, Flacco has already become the Ravens' all-time leading passer in yards (10,206), touchdown passes (60), completions (878) and attempts (1,416).

But there are still a lot of questions surrounding Flacco. He struggles with touch on long passes. His delivery sometimes is slow and methodical. He still locks too much on a receiver, and there remain concerns about consistency and whether he can make big league throws over the middle in tight windows. And, most importantly, can he develop leadership?

GRADE: B

Running backs ▸ Ray Rice is a good all-around running back, but the Ravens have to find someone to complement him as a backup.

2010 RECORD

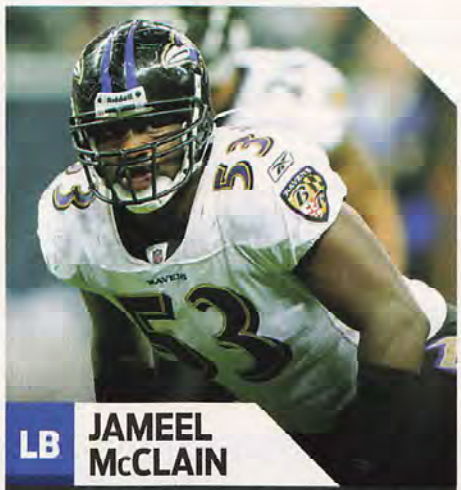
OVERALL: 12-4 HOME: 7-1

- **ONLINE:** www.baltimoreravens.com
- **STADIUM:** M&T Bank Stadium

Capacity: 71,008 **Turf:** Artificial
Tickets: 410-261-7283

- **TRAINING CAMP:** McDaniel College, Westminster, Md.; 410-261-7283

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB JAMEEL McCLAIN

McClain is in his fourth season, and second as a starter. He has outstanding speed and surprising power, but his biggest attribute is his instincts, which always put him around the ball. McClain can stop the run and is also effective as a pass rusher, especially on blitzes or coming off the edge.

BRETT DAVIS / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: LARRY FRENCH / GETTY IMAGES

RAVENS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Ed Reed *(2002-present)*	54	2	Ray Lewis *(1996-present)*	30	3	Chris McAlister *(1999-2008)*	26

AFC NORTH

SN PICK **13-3**

1

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Joe Flacco Hunter Cantwell
FB	Jason McKie Dennis Pitta
RB	Ray Rice Jalen Parmele
LT	Michael Oher Oniel Cousins
LG	Ben Grubbs Chris Chester
C	Matt Birk Chris Chester
RG	Marshal Yanda Tony Moll
RT	Oniel Cousins Tony Moll
TE	Todd Heap Ed Dickson
WR	Anquan Boldin Torrey Smith
WR	Derrick Mason David Reed
DEFENSE	
DE	Cory Redding Paul Kruger
NT	Kelly Gregg Terrence Cody
DT	Haloti Ngata Arthur Jones
DE/OLB	Terrell Suggs Brendon Ayanbadejo
ILB	Ray Lewis Tavares Gooden
ILB	Jameel McClain Dannell Ellerbe
OLB	Jarret Johnson Prescott Burgess
LCB	Jimmy Smith Lardarius Webb
SS	Tom Zbikowski Haruki Nakamura
FS	Ed Reed Haruki Nakamura
RCB	Domonique Foxworth Cary Williams
SPECIALISTS	
K	Billy Cundiff
P	Sam Koch
KR	David Reed
PR	Lardarius Webb
LS	Kevin Houser

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	PITTSBURGH	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ TENNESSEE	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	@ ST. LOUIS	SEPT. 25	4:05	W / L
WEEK 4	N.Y. JETS	OCT. 2	8:20	W / L
WEEK 5	OPEN			
WEEK 6	HOUSTON	OCT. 16	4:05	W / L
WEEK 7	@JACKSONVILLE	OCT. 24	8:30	W / L
WEEK 8	ARIZONA	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	@ PITTSBURGH	NOV. 6	8:20	W / L
WEEK 10	@SEATTLE	NOV. 13	4:05	W / L
WEEK 11	CINCINNATI	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	SAN FRANCISCO	NOV. 24	8:20	W / L
WEEK 13	@CLEVELAND	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	INDIANAPOLIS	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	@ SAN DIEGO	DEC. 18	8:20	W / L
WEEK 16	CLEVELAND	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	@CINCINNATI	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Few teams go through an entire season without an injury to their star running back, and Rice was no exception, as he experienced several leg injuries early in the campaign.

Rice had 1,776 combined yards last season, third best in the NFL. But at 5-8 and 212 pounds, his body can take only so much pounding. The Ravens will try to get as much as possible out of the shifty Rice, and will look at fourth-year tailback Jalen Parmele as a primary backup.

While bigger than Rice, Parmele is more of a straight-ahead runner who relies heavily on cutbacks. Jason McKie is the starting fullback heading into the regular season. **GRADE: C+**

Receivers ➤ The Ravens have a talented group; it's just a matter of finding the right strategy and chemistry.

This season, Flacco is expected to call more of his own plays. That means more passes over the middle and downfield. Boldin will be a force up the middle because of his size and strength. The Ravens also have another possession-type receiver to work the outside in veteran Derrick Mason.

The Ravens may have solved a major problem by drafting Maryland wide receiver Torrey Smith in the second round, as he has the speed to be a vertical threat and stretch defenses. Tight end Todd Heap played well in 2010 and should have another strong season in 2011, but he works the short and intermediate routes.

One option as a deep threat is second-year receiver David Reed, who played mostly as a kick returner last season. A second choice is Ed Dickson, who played well at times as the No. 2 tight end a year ago. **GRADE: B-**

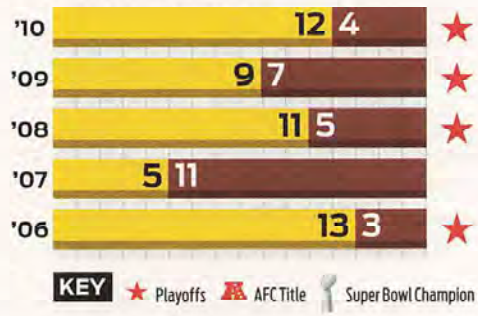
Offensive line ➤ Entering the 2011 season, the Ravens would like to upgrade the left-tackle position, and that could happen without changing personnel. Michael Oher is entering his third season, but only his second on the left side, and he should be improved with another year of experience. Oher has always had great physical talent, but struggled adjusting to speed rushers last season.

The Ravens have a good combination of youth and experience on the offensive line with athletic guards Ben Grubbs and Marshal Yanda. Grubbs can work into the second level, while Yanda is strong at the point of attack. The Ravens have 14-year veteran Matt Birk at center. He still has good quickness and can make blocks downfield, but he seemed to tire at the end of last season.

The Ravens have several candidates competing for right tackle, including Oniel Cousins and Tony Moll.

The Ravens have little proven depth on the offensive line except for Moll and Chris Chester, who can play center and guard but

5-YEAR RECORD: 50-30



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Ravens)

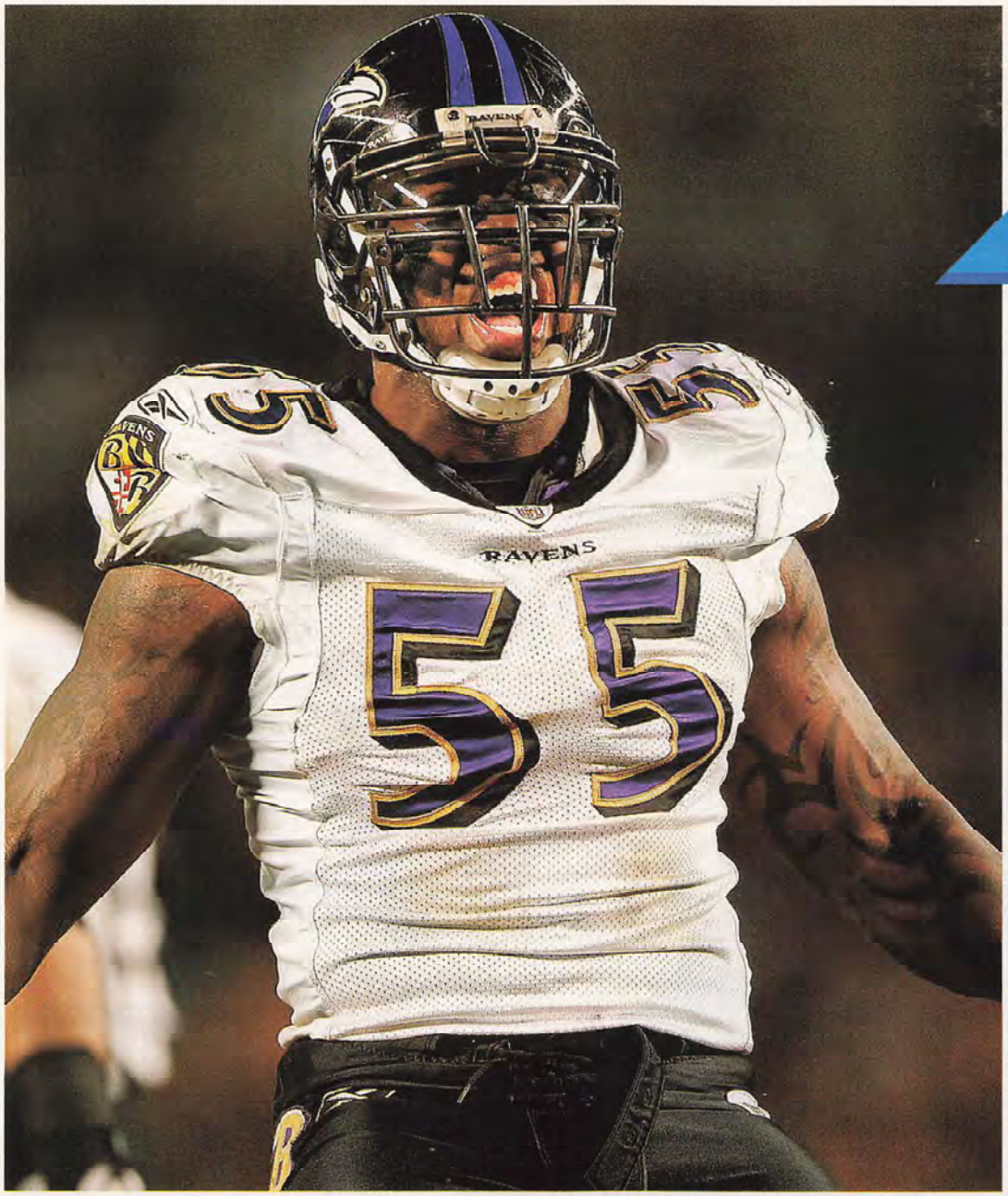
"I like what John Harbaugh has brought to that team. He is a hard-nosed coach and has changed the culture and made the players more accountable. I don't think the personnel is as strong as it used to be, but he still has them playing at a high level. I like Joe Flacco, and he reminds me of a young Vinny Testaverde. He can deliver the ball anywhere on the field because he has a strong arm. I like their receivers, all tough guys, but I'm concerned about the offensive coordinator (Cam Cameron). The offensive line is a weakness, and that group isn't close to where it was two years ago. I'm not sure Cameron does enough to cover some of their weaknesses. He needs to be more aggressive. ...

"On the defensive side, they don't have a shutdown cornerback. For a team that likes to blitz, they need a shutdown cornerback, a playmaker at that position. I still think Ray Lewis is their best defensive player. Even though he can't cover as well anymore because he lost a step or two, he is still by far their most consistent player."

FANTASY SPIN

Quarterback Joe Flacco has seen increases in yards and touchdowns in each of his first three years. A 4,000-yard, 30-TD breakout season is the next step.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



GREGORY SHAMUS / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

TERRELL SUGGS

"To stop him, you must be physical because he is not the most physical player. Suggs makes most of his money off his second and third moves because he isn't physical at the point of attack. He dominates lazy offensive linemen who won't move their feet after the first contact. When you play against Suggs, he has to be a point of emphasis. They have other players like Jarret Johnson and Cory Redding, but they are just guys—nothing special. But with Suggs, you have to game-plan around him like you do around Haloti Ngata and Ray Lewis. ...

"When you look at Suggs, you see a great physical specimen. You see a guy who is a top (player) and got a big contract. You expect him to be a monster, but he really isn't. He isn't Lawrence Taylor, not even Junior Seau. He's a motor guy who won't stop until the whistle."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	322.9	22
Rushing	114.4	14
Passing	208.4	20
Scoring	357	16
Punt Returns	7.4	24
Kick Returns	24.7	6
Red Zone TD %	49.0	22
Total Defense	318.9	10
Against Rush	93.9	5
Against Pass	224.9	21
Points Allowed	270	3
Interceptions	19	8t
Sacks	27	27t
Turnover Diff.	7	9

has trouble knocking big tackles off the ball. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

The Ravens have a new defensive coordinator in Chuck Pagano, but the basic philosophy won't change: They want to put pressure on the quarterback using multiple alignments.

Pagano isn't afraid to run a lot of stunts up front and put his cornerbacks in press coverage with receivers. Pagano prefers to attack than be attacked, and that's a style that has been successful in Baltimore since 2000.

Defensive line ▸ The Ravens are solid on the interior, but there are questions about nose tackle Kelly Gregg, who is entering his 12th season. Nose tackles take more abuse than most players in the NFL and Gregg showed signs of slowing down, registering just 21 tackles in 2010.

The Ravens are hoping second-year player Terrence Cody can get his weight down and challenge Gregg for the starting position, or at least playing time. Haloti Ngata is coming off a great season, and has developed into one of the top defensive tackles in the game.

Cory Redding started out slow in 2010 as the top defensive end, but by the end of the season he had become a good run stopper because of his ability to penetrate.

The Ravens subscribe to the theory of never having enough defensive linemen, and they have some good backups in tackles Arthur Jones, Lamar Divens

and Brandon McKinney. Of the three, McKinney will see time in the Ravens four-man tackle rotation, along with Cody, Gregg and Ngata. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸ The Ravens should have one of the strongest linebacking units in the NFL in 2011.

Of course, it all starts with inside linebacker Ray Lewis, who is about to enter his 16th season. Lewis isn't as dominant as he used to be, but he can still run sideline to sideline and contribute signature plays in the fourth quarter.

Joining Lewis on the inside will be Jameel McClain, a fourth-year man who made a name for himself last season when he finished with 91 tackles, third best on the team. Like Lewis, McClain runs well, although sometimes he overpursues.

On the outside, the Ravens have Terrell Suggs, who returned to Pro Bowl form last season with 11 sacks, which tied for 10th in the NFL. By the end of last year, he had become the Ravens' most dominant defensive player, combining power and speed. On the other side is Jarret Johnson. He doesn't get as much publicity as Lewis or Suggs, but he turns in a consistent performance every week.

The Ravens have a lot of backup talent at linebacker, including Brendon Ayanbadejo, Dannell Ellerbe, Tavares Gooden and Prescott Burgess. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸ For the past two years, the Ravens' secondary has been the Achilles' heel of the defense, but that might change this year because

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	10-9	New York Jets
09/19	L	10-15	Cincinnati Bengals
09/26	W	24-17	Cleveland Browns
10/03	W	17-14	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/10	W	31-17	Denver Broncos
10/17	L	20-23	New England Patriots
10/24	W	37-34	Buffalo Bills
11/07	W	26-10	Miami Dolphins
11/11	L	21-26	Atlanta Falcons
11/21	W	37-13	Carolina Panthers
11/28	W	17-10	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/05	L	10-13	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/13	W	34-28	Houston Texans
12/19	W	30-24	New Orleans Saints
12/26	W	20-10	Cleveland Browns
01/02	W	13-7	Cincinnati Bengals

WON 12, LOST 4

DRAFT REPORT

The Ravens took a big gamble on **Jimmy Smith** with the 27th overall pick. He is the best pure cornerback of the 2011 class, but has numerous off-field issues. If Baltimore's veteran locker room can keep Smith on track, then the team could have a Pro Bowl corner in no time. Second-round wideout **Torrey Smith** was a good value pick who will fit in well with the Ravens' offense.

Offensive tackle **Jah Reid** has potential, but is a raw prospect who is a long way from contributing. In the later rounds the Ravens continued their tradition of drafting players who were productive in college but not viewed as elite. **Tandon Doss** could be their return man and No. 4 receiver in 2011, while running back **Anthony Allen** may spell Ray Rice and be Baltimore's short-yardage back.

Jimmy Smith

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	27	Jimmy Smith	CB	6-2	211	Colorado
2	26	Torrey Smith	WR	6-1	204	Maryland
3	21	Jah Reid	OT	6-7	327	UCF
4	26	Tandon Doss	WR	6-2	201	Indiana
5	33	Chykie Brown	CB	6-0	194	Texas
5	34	Pernell McPhee	DE	6-3	278	Mississippi State
6	15	Tyrod Taylor	QB	6-1	217	Virginia Tech
7	22	Anthony Allen	RB	6-1	228	Georgia Tech

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice	307	1220	4	50	5
McGahee	100	380	3.8	30	5
McClain	28	85	3.0	16	0
Flacco	43	84	2.0	14	1
Stallworth	5	45	9.0	19	0
Reed	1	15	15.0	15	0
Boldin	2	2	1.0	3	0
Koch	1	0	0.0	0	0
BALTIMORE	**487**	**1831**	**3.8**	**50**	**11**
OPPONENTS	**384**	**1503**	**3.9**	**48**	**5**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Boldin	64	837	13.1	61	7
Rice	63	556	8.8	34	1
Mason	61	802	13.1	42	7
Heap	40	599	15.0	65	5
Houshmandzadeh	30	398	13.3	56	3
McClain	21	134	6.4	19	0
McGahee	14	55	3.9	32	1
Dickson	11	152	13.8	58	1
Stallworth	2	82	41.0	67	0
Pitta	1	1	1.0	1	0
Williams	1	13	13.0	13	0
BALTIMORE	**308**	**3629**	**11.8**	**67**	**25**
OPPONENTS	**349**	**3599**	**10.3**	**88**	**22**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Flacco	489	306	3622	25	10
Koch	1	1	13	0	0
Boldin	1	1	-6	0	0
BALTIMORE	**491**	**308**	**3629**	**25**	**10**
OPPONENTS	**596**	**349**	**3789**	**22**	**19**

SACKS BALTIMORE 27, OPPONENTS 40

Suggs 11, Ngata 5.5, Redding 3, Lewis 2, Johnson 1.5, Ellerbe 1, Kruger 1, Landry 1, McClain 1

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Bulger, Marc	QB	6-3	208	4/5/77	11	West Virginia
12 Cantwell, Hunter	QB	6-4	236	12/30/85	1	Louisville
5 Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	238	1/16/85	4	Delaware
Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	217	8/3/89	0	Virginia Tech

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77 Birk, Matt	C	6-4	310	7/23/76	14	Harvard
76 Bond, Brady	T	6-6	300	6/4/86	1	Oklahoma State
65 Chester, Chris	C	6-3	315	1/12/83	6	Oklahoma
64 Cousins, Oniel	T	6-4	315	6/29/84	4	UTEP
46 Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	226	4/26/86	2	Tennessee
71 Gaither, Jared	T	6-9	340	3/18/86	5	Maryland
66 Grubbs, Ben	G	6-3	310	3/10/84	5	Auburn
78 Harewood, Ramon	T	6-6	340	2/3/87	2	Morehouse
79 Moll, Tony	T	6-5	315	8/23/83	6	Nevada
74 Oher, Michael	T	6-4	313	5/28/86	3	Ole Miss
Ramsey, Andre	T	6-5	322	7/24/87	1	Ball State
Reid, Jah	T	6-7	327	7/22/88	0	UCF
67 Sanders, Daniel	C	6-2	316	2/3/86	2	Colorado
Vanden Heuvel, Eric	T	6-7	340	6/15/87	0	Wisconsin
73 Yanda, Marshal	G	6-3	315	9/15/84	5	Iowa

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Allen, Anthony	RB	6-1	228	8/6/88	0	Georgia Tech
70 Houser, Kevin	FB	6-2	252	8/23/77	11	Ohio State
32 Lawrence, Matt	RB	6-1	209	5/5/85	3	Massachusetts
33 McClain, Le'Ron	RB	6-0	260	12/27/84	5	Alabama
23 McGahee, Willis	RB	6-0	235	10/21/81	9	Miami (Fla.)
McKie, Jason	RB	5-11	247	5/22/80	9	Temple
34 Parmele, Jalen	RB	5-11	222	12/30/85	4	Toledo
27 Rice, Ray	RB	5-8	212	1/22/87	4	Rutgers
42 Steele, Curtis	RB	6-0	200	3/24/87	1	Memphis

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Boldin, Anquan	WR	6-1	217	10/3/80	9	Florida State
83 Dickson, Ed	TE	6-4	250	7/25/87	2	Oregon
Doss, Tandon	WR	6-2	201	9/22/89	0	Indiana
80 Drew, Davon	TE	6-4	255	12/9/85	1	East Carolina
Hardy, James	WR	6-5	220	12/24/85	2	Indiana
82 Harper, Justin	WR	6-3	226	2/24/85	3	Virginia Tech
86 Heap, Todd	TE	6-5	247	3/16/80	11	Arizona State
84 Houshmandzadeh, T.J.	WR	6-2	203	9/26/77	11	Oregon State
Jones, Brandon	WR	6-1	212	10/6/82	5	Oklahoma
85 Mason, Derrick	WR	5-10	197	1/17/74	15	Michigan State
88 Pitta, Dennis	TE	6-4	245	6/29/85	2	BYU
16 Reed, David	WR	6-0	190	3/22/87	2	Utah
Smith, Torrey	WR	6-1	204	1/26/89	0	Maryland
11 Smith, Marcus	WR	6-1	225	1/11/85	4	New Mexico
18 Stallworth, Donte'	WR	6-0	220	11/10/80	9	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62 Cody, Terrence	DT	6-4	349	6/28/88	2	Alabama
96 Divens, Lamar	DT	6-3	343	11/12/85	4	Tennessee State
97 Gregg, Kelly	DT	6-0	320	11/1/76	12	Oklahoma
95 Johnson, Jarret	DT	6-3	265	8/14/81	9	Alabama
61 Jones, Arthur	DT	6-3	313	6/3/86	2	Syracuse
49 Kindle, Sergio	DE	6-3	250	9/20/87	1	Texas
99 Kruger, Paul	DE	6-4	268	2/15/86	3	Utah
72 Mattison, Bryan	DE	6-3	313	5/15/84	2	Iowa
47 McClellan, Albert	DE	6-2	255	6/4/86	1	Marshall
91 McKinney, Brandon	DT	6-2	350	8/24/83	6	Michigan State
McPhee, Pernell	DE	6-3	278	12/17/88	0	Mississippi State
92 Ngata, Haloti	DT	6-4	350	1/21/84	6	Oregon
93 Redding, Cory	DE	6-4	292	11/15/80	9	Texas
98 Talavou, Kelly	DT	6-2	350	10/4/84	4	Utah

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Brown, Chykie	CB	6-0	194	12/26/86	0	Texas
25 Carr, Chris	CB	5-10	182	4/30/83	7	Boise State
24 Foxworth, Domonique	CB	5-11	180	3/27/83	7	Maryland
Gorrer, Danny	CB	6-0	173	6/1/86	2	Texas A&M
26 Landry, Dawan	S	6-0	210	12/30/82	6	Georgia Tech
43 Nakamura, Haruki	S	5-10	200	4/18/86	4	Cincinnati
30 Paschal, Marcus	S	6-0	206	8/31/84	2	Iowa
20 Reed, Ed	S	5-11	200	9/11/78	10	Miami (Fla.)
Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	211	7/26/88	0	Colorado
31 Washington, Fabian	CB	5-11	175	6/9/83	7	Nebraska
21 Webb, Lardarius	CB	5-10	182	10/12/85	3	Nicholls State
29 Williams, Cary	CB	6-1	182	12/23/84	3	Washburn
37 Wilson, Josh	CB	5-9	192	3/11/85	5	Maryland
28 Zbikowski, Tom	S	5-11	215	5/22/85	4	Notre Dame

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
51 Ayanbadejo, Brendon	LB	6-1	225	9/6/76	9	UCLA
54 Burgess, Prescott	LB	6-3	253	3/6/84	5	Michigan
59 Ellerbe, Dannell	LB	6-1	243	11/29/85	3	Georgia
56 Gooden, Tavares	LB	6-1	242	10/7/84	4	Miami (Fla.)
52 Lewis, Ray	LB	6-1	250	5/15/75	16	Miami (Fla.)
53 McClain, Jameel	LB	6-1	250	7/25/85	4	Syracuse
58 Phillips, Jason	LB	6-1	242	2/14/86	3	TCU
55 Suggs, Terrell	LB	6-3	260	10/11/82	9	Arizona State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Cundiff, Billy	K	6-1	212	3/30/80	7	Drake
4 Koch, Sam	P	6-1	216	8/13/82	6	Nebraska

JOHN HARBAUGH, Head coach

Cam Cameron, offensive coordinator; **Chuck Pagano,** defensive coordinator; **Jerry Rosburg,** asst. head coach/special teams coordinator; **Roy Anderson,** asst. secondary; **Teryl Austin,** secondary; **Clarence Brooks,** defensive line; **Wade Harman,** tight ends; **Jim Hostler,** wide receivers; **Marwan Maalouf,** asst. special teams; **Andy Moeller,** offensive line; **Ted Monachino,** outside linebackers; **Wilbert Montgomery,** running backs; **Dean Pees,** linebackers; **Todd Washington,** asst. offensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JOHN HARBAUGH

Harbaugh is old school. He wants to run the ball, play great defense and win the field-position battle with that defense. He isn't afraid to take risks and likes to challenge his interior line in short-yardage situations.

the team believes it has finally acquired a shutdown cornerback.

The Ravens drafted Colorado cornerback Jimmy Smith in the first round, and he is physical and has the speed to run with any receiver. His addition was critical for a team like the Ravens that blitzes often and leaves their cornerbacks exposed one-on-one.

The Ravens have been hit hard by injuries the past two seasons, but should be healthy in 2011. A year ago, Pro Bowl safety Ed Reed missed the first six games with back and leg problems, but he was fine this past offseason. Starting cornerback Domonique Foxworth missed all of last season with a knee injury, but was cleared to play in March after a strong offseason of rehabilitation.

Smith could be the other cornerback to complement Foxworth, but he'll have to beat out third-year player Lardarius Webb. While Webb isn't big, he is a fast and tenacious tackler and has the speed to run with any receiver.

Tom Zbikowski and Haruki Nakamura will battle for the other safety spot opposite Reed. Zbikowski plays the run better, but Nakamura has more speed and range in pass coverage. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Baltimore was so delighted with its kicking game in 2010 that punter Sam Koch and Billy Cundiff were signed to long-term contracts in the offseason.

Koch had an average of 39.2 last year, but he specializes in dropping his punts inside the 20-yard line, where he placed 39 last season, second most in the NFL. Cundiff was named to his first Pro Bowl in 2010 and was spectacular on kickoffs. He also produced a career-high 117 points.

It appears the Ravens will try several candidates as return specialists, including David Reed and Parmele on kickoffs, as well as Webb and Zbikowski on punts. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

The Ravens are the favorites for the AFC North title. While they are stocked with solid talent, the key is improving their passing game. Flacco has to step up and prove he can beat the AFC's top teams in the playoffs.

But the pressure isn't just on Flacco, it's also on offensive coordinator Cameron, who has to redefine himself and get more juice out of the passing game. Also, keep an eye on the Ravens' older players such Lewis, Reed, Gregg, Boldin and Mason. Some of them are starting to show the wear of long careers in the NFL.

91
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

2

AFC NORTH

SN PICK 12-4

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Ben Roethlisberger Byron Leftwich
FB	David Johnson Isaac Redman
RB	Rashard Mendenhall Isaac Redman
LT	Max Starks Jonathan Scott
LG	Chris Kemoeatu Trai Essex
C	Maurkice Pouncey Doug Legursky
RG	Ramon Foster Marcus Gilbert
RT	Willie Colon Flozell Adams
TE	Heath Miller Matt Spaeth
WR	Mike Wallace Emmanuel Sanders
WR	Hines Ward Antonio Brown
DEFENSE	
DE	Aaron Smith Ziggy Hood
NT	Casey Hampton Chris Hoke
DE	Brett Keisel Cameron Heyward
OLB	James Harrison Chris Carter
ILB	James Farrior Larry Foote
ILB	Lawrence Timmons Stevenson Sylvester
OLB	LaMarr Woodley Jason Worilds
LCB	Ike Taylor Crezdon Butler
SS	Troy Polamalu Ryan Mundy
FS	Ryan Clark Will Allen
RCB	Bryant McFadden William Gay
SPECIALISTS	
K	Shaun Suisham
P	Daniel Sepulveda
KR	Antonio Brown
PR	Antonio Brown
LS	Greg Warren

Tomlin has veteran troops ready for another roll through AFC foes

By Gerry Dulac *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

In a season when he had to wade through a minefield of suspensions, fines, injuries and controversial trades, it's hard to believe that Mike Tomlin didn't receive a single vote for NFL Coach of the Year.

After all the problems and injuries he endured, including a four-game suspension of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger for violating the league's personal conduct policy, Tomlin should have been the hands-down winner.

The Steelers lost only four games in 2010, won their 20th division title since 1970 and made it to their third Super Bowl in six years.

Now Tomlin gets to see if he can do it again.

"We have a veteran laden group with really good leadership," Tomlin says. "A little extra is required when you're trying to find a winning edge, a winning formula—and that is something our guys embrace."

OFFENSE

There was some question whether Bruce Arians would be back as offensive coordinator, but after the run to the Super Bowl, why not? The Steelers leaned more on the run in 2010 with Arians, and Roethlisberger says it was because they were told to do so.

Arians silenced a lot of critics with his ability to mix the run with the pass, something he will continue to do with Roethlisberger and running back Rashard Mendenhall. But look for the offense to open up again in 2011.

Quarterbacks ➤ Considering everything that transpired, Roethlisberger's on-field performance in 2010 might have been the best of his career.

His command of the offense and understanding of opposing defenses is one of the reasons he threw a career-low five interceptions during the regular season—though Roethlisberger did throw four picks in the final two postseason games.

Roethlisberger's greatest strength remains his ability to make plays out of the pocket, and his signature is becoming fourth-quarter comebacks.

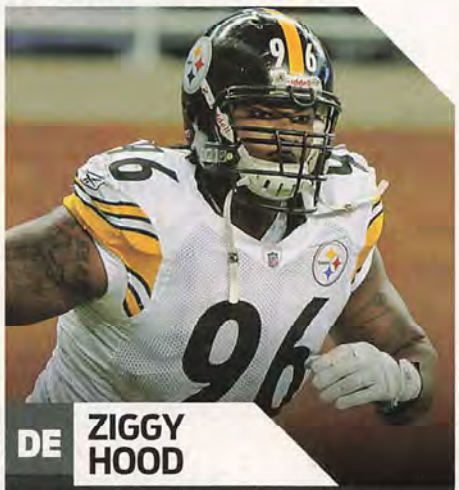
The Steelers have the best set of quarterbacks in the league, but it seems unlikely they will carry four on the roster. The odd man out would appear to be veteran Charlie Batch, with Byron Leftwich the primary backup and Dennis Dixon at No. 3. **GRADE: A-**

Running backs ➤ Tomlin once said he would run Willie Parker until the wheels came off, and he seems intent on doing the same with Mendenhall.

Mendenhall had a career-best 1,273 yards and 13 rushing touchdowns during the regular season and was even better in the playoffs, adding four more scores.

Mendenhall has a freakish combination of power and speed—his 11 runs of 20 yards or longer were fifth most in the league last season—and he showed it in

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



DE ZIGGY HOOD

Hood started the final 13 games (including the postseason) when Aaron Smith was injured, and his performance got better each week. Even though he might not begin the season as a starter, Hood has earned plenty of playing time and could become a dominant force.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 12-4 HOME: 5-3

➤ **ONLINE:** www.steelers.com

➤ **STADIUM:** Heinz Field

Capacity: 65,050 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 412-323-1200

➤ **TRAINING CAMP:** St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.; 724-805-1490

STEELERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Mel Blount *(1970-83)*	57	2	Jack Butler *(1951-59)*	52	3	Donnie Shell *(1974-87)*	51

AL MESSERSCHMIDT / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE: AL PEREIRA / GETTY IMAGES

MIKE
WALLACE
WR
PITTSBURGH
STEELERS
Riddell
Steelers

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ BALTIMORE	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	SEATTLE	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	@ INDIANAPOLIS	SEPT. 25	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	@ HOUSTON	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	TENNESSEE	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	JACKSONVILLE	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 7	@ ARIZONA	OCT. 23	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	NEW ENGLAND	OCT. 30	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	BALTIMORE	NOV. 6	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ CINCINNATI	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	OPEN			
WEEK 12	@ KANSAS CITY	NOV. 27	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	CINCINNATI	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	CLEVELAND	DEC. 8	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	@ SAN FRANCISCO	DEC. 19	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	ST. LOUIS	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	@ CLEVELAND	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the season opener with a 50-yard touchdown in overtime to beat the Falcons. But for all his success, Mendenhall's fumble in Super Bowl 45 was one of the key moments in the game.

Isaac Redman will be remembered for making one of the biggest plays of the season—his catch-and-run for a touchdown to beat the Ravens. But he also helped the short-yardage and goal-line offense, something that has plagued the offense in recent years. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ Even with veteran Hines Ward, who enters his 14th NFL season, the Steelers have one of the youngest and most dynamic corps of receivers in the NFL.

It starts with Mike Wallace, who showed in only his second season that he can be one of the most dangerous wideouts in the league. Wallace led the team with 1,257 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns and topped the AFC with an average of 21 yards per catch last year.

The advent of rookie receivers Emmanuel Sanders and Antonio Brown in 2010 was a pleasant surprise and has injected youth into a position that includes Ward and veterans Antwaan Randle El and Arnaz Battle.

Sanders moved into the No. 3 receiver spot at midseason and will play a bigger role in the offense in 2011. So will Brown, who needs to become a better route runner but is a big-play threat after he catches the ball.

Ward's numbers declined last year—59 catches (his fewest since 2000), 755 yards, five touchdowns—but he remains their most reliable performer in the clutch. Tight end Heath Miller needs to re-emerge as a consistent red-zone threat, as he has good hands and knows how to get open. **GRADE: B**

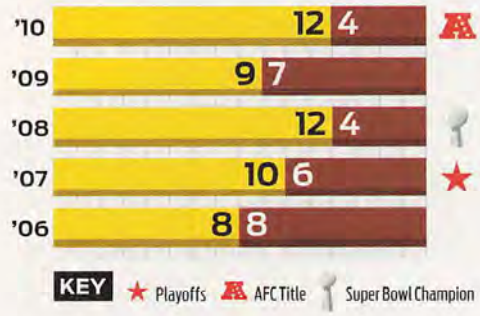
Offensive line ▸ Considering the unit lost both starting tackles to season-ending injuries and started three different players at right guard, the line can only be commended, not criticized, for what it was able to do with so many different combinations.

In his first year with the team, line coach Sean Kugler became an instant hero after lowering the sack total to 43 from 50 in 2009 and increasing the rushing yards when the only lineman to start every game was 14-year veteran Flozell Adams.

Right tackle Willie Colon, who missed all of 2010 with a torn Achilles, and left tackle Max Starks (neck) return from injuries, meaning the team might be able to get one more year out of Adams as the No. 3 tackle. Starks' injury allowed Jonathan Scott to start nine games at left tackle, which helped his development.

The biggest surprise was center Maurkice Pouncey, who became the leader of the offensive line and made the Pro Bowl as a rookie. Guard Chris Kemoeatu can look awesome pulling to lead a counter play, but he is still prone to costly mental mistakes. Ramon Foster started eight

5-YEAR RECORD: 51-29



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

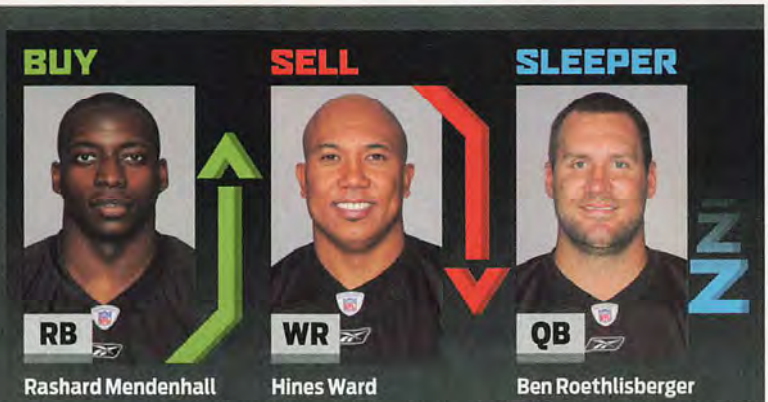
(an opponent breaks down the Steelers)

"The Packers discovered the way to beat the Steelers: spread that defense out and force those corners to cover, something they just don't do very well. If you go back a number of years, the Patriots started doing that to the Steelers with Tom Brady, and they still do it. What happens when you spread the field? Number 1 is it gets Casey Hampton off the field in their nickel defense. Number 2, when you use four and even five wide receivers, it gets some off the linebackers in mismatches with the running backs and teams look for that. You've seen other teams challenge (inside linebacker) James Farrior in those situations.

"But the whole purpose is to get the Steelers' corners in one-on-one situations, and they're just not very good in those situations. Now, Ike Taylor is, but he doesn't make a lot of plays on the ball. The problem is on the other side, where Bryant McFadden needs help over the top because he has a hard time in single coverage. Whenever the Packers saw McFadden in single coverage, they almost always went at him."

FANTASY SPIN

Mike Wallace might be the premier deep threat in the league. He averaged 87.2 receiving yards per game with eight touchdowns after Ben Roethlisberger returned from a four-game suspension.



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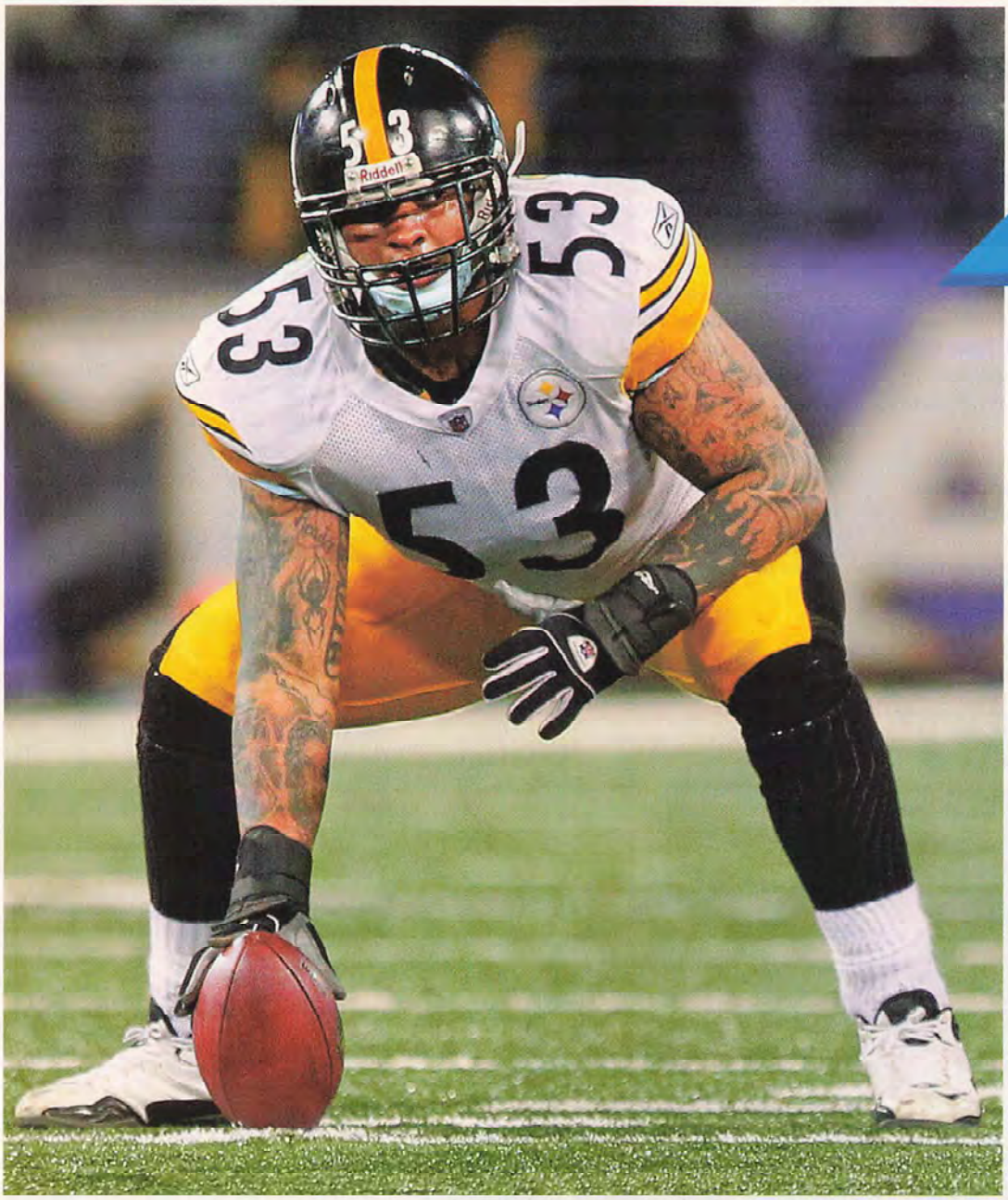


GEOFF BURKE / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

MAURKICE POUNCEY

"I love Maurkice Pouncey. I liked him in college and he's just gotten better. He's not only very good; he plays with an attitude. There was a game last year where another player was giving him some gruff and he just lifted him off the ground and put him on his back. I love that about him. But what sets him apart is his quickness, his ability to get to the second level in a hurry.

"He reminds me a lot of (former Steelers Pro Bowl center) Dermontti Dawson because he's so athletic and quick. That's one of the reasons (Rashard) Mendenhall was able to break so many long runs last year. If you watch Pouncey, you'll always see him running downfield after the runner. And you can see he knows what he's doing. He's not lost out there. He plays aggressively, but he also plays under control. We would have taken him (in the draft) if Pittsburgh didn't."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	345.3	14
Rushing	120.2	11
Passing	225.1	14
Scoring	375	12
Punt Returns	6.1	31t
Kick Returns	23.5	13
Red Zone TD %	48.0	23
Total Defense	276.8	2
AGAINST RUSH	**62.8**	**1**
Against Pass	214.1	12
POINTS ALLOWED	**232**	**1**
Interceptions	21	5t
SACKS	**48**	**1**
Turnover Diff.	17	2

games at right guard, but the coaches like the intelligence and toughness of Doug Legursky, a former rookie free agent. The team drafted Florida tackle Marcus Gilbert in the second round and will fit him in at guard. **GRADE: B-**

DEFENSE

Pittsburgh stops the run and sacks the quarterback better than any team in the NFL, and has a knack for making interceptions, too. There is little Dick LeBeau's defense can't do, which is why the unit annually ranks among the best in the league. LeBeau is back for another season to use his zone-blitz schemes to confuse quarterbacks. But all of that works because he makes sure his front seven can stop the run.

Defensive line ▸ The same question persists as last season: Is the line getting too old? And can Aaron Smith make it through a season without an injury?

Smith, 35, missed the final 13 games last season with a torn triceps tendon—the third time in the past four years that his season was ended by an injury. He is expected to be fully recovered for 2011, but Smith is part of a 30-something unit that includes five-time Pro Bowl nose tackle Casey Hampton (33) and end Brett Keisel (32).

Smith's injury had a silver lining because it allowed for the rapid development of end Ziggy Hood and showcased some of his talent—something the Steelers can't ignore in 2011. They will attempt to do the same with rookie end Cameron Heyward, their first-round draft pick. Keisel, who missed six games last season with a nagging hamstring

injury, finally earned an invitation to his first Pro Bowl. **GRADE: A**

Linebackers ▸ It's hard to imagine a team leading the NFL in rush defense and sacks (48), but that's what the Steelers did in 2010.

Two reasons are James Harrison and LaMarr Woodley, the only players in franchise history to have double-digit sacks in three consecutive seasons.

Harrison earned his fifth consecutive Pro Bowl appearance, despite being the target of constant NFL fines for illegal hits. And Woodley has learned to cover running backs and tight ends with pristine consistency.

But the best linebacker all season might have been James Farrior, who showed at age 36 that he could still play at a high level. He was second on the team with 109 tackles and had a career-high six sacks. Still, he enters his 15th NFL season, so the coaches will keep a close eye on his performance.

The rising star in the unit is Lawrence Timmons, who had a team-high 135 tackles in the regular season and should only get better. And keep an eye on Jason Worilds, last year's second-round draft pick who could get more time as a pass-rush specialist in sub-packages. Rookie Chris Carter, a 2011 fifth-rounder, should help with the depth on the outside. **GRADE: A+**

Secondary ▸ For the most part, LeBeau did a good job of hiding the biggest weakness on the team last year. The Steelers led the NFL in scoring defense (232 points allowed) and had the second-best opposing passer rating in the league (73.1) and the second-most interceptions (21) in the AFC. Of course, it helps when

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	15-9	Atlanta Falcons
09/19	W	19-11	Tennessee Titans
09/26	W	38-13	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/03	L	14-17	Baltimore Ravens
10/17	W	28-10	Cleveland Browns
10/24	W	23-22	Miami Dolphins
10/31	L	10-20	New Orleans Saints
11/08	W	27-21	Cincinnati Bengals
11/14	L	26-39	New England Patriots
11/21	W	35-3	Oakland Raiders
11/28	W	19-16	Buffalo Bills
12/05	W	13-10	Baltimore Ravens
12/12	W	23-7	Cincinnati Bengals
12/19	L	17-22	New York Jets
12/23	W	27-3	Carolina Panthers
01/02	W	41-9	Cleveland Browns

WON 12, LOST 4

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Mendenhall	324	1273	3.9	50	13
Redman	53	247	4.7	23	0
Roethlisberger	33	176	5.3	31	2
Moore	33	99	3.0	18	0
Wallace	5	39	7.8	19	0
Dixon	5	32	6.4	21	0
Batch	7	30	4.3	24	0
Dwyer	9	28	3.1	7	0
Randle El	1	2	2.0	2	0
Ward	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
PITTSBURGH	**471**	**1924**	**4.1**	**50**	**15**
OPPONENTS	**333**	**1004**	**3.0**	**24**	**5**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wallace	60	1257	21.0	56	10
Ward	59	755	12.8	43	5
Miller	42	512	12.2	36	2
Sanders	28	376	13.4	35	2
Moore	26	205	7.9	29	0
Mendehall	23	167	7.3	24	0
Randle El	22	253	11.5	34	0
Brown	16	167	10.4	26	0
Redman	9	72	8.0	16	2
Spaeth	9	80	8.9	13	1
Johnson	4	46	11.5	25	0
PITTSBURGH	**298**	**3890**	**13.1**	**56**	**22**
OPPONENTS	**363**	**3425**	**9.4**	**67**	**15**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Roethlisberger	389	240	3200	17	5
Batch	49	29	352	3	3
Dixon	32	22	254	0	1
Leftwich	7	5	42	0	0
Randle El	2	2	42	2	0
PITTSBURGH	**479**	**298**	**3890**	**22**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**593**	**363**	**3744**	**15**	**21**

SACKS PITTSBURGH 48, OPPONENTS 43

Harrison 10.5, Woodley 10, Farrior 6, Hood 3, Keisel 3, Timmons 3, Gay 2, McFadden 2, Worilds 2, Eason 1.5, Foote 1, Hampton 1, Madison 1, Polamalu 1, Taylor 1

DRAFT REPORT

As has become the norm, the Steelers took a number of solid developmental prospects who should become starters in time. First-round pick **Cameron Heyward** was a productive end in Ohio State's 3-4 defense, which is similar to the scheme used in Pittsburgh. He has outstanding character, intelligence, size and athleticism. In the second round, the Steelers chose massive offensive tackle **Marcus Gilbert**, who should become a good starter in a season or two.

Cornerback **Curtis Brown** was a nice value pick in the third round due to his size, playing style and ball skills. He'll challenge for playing time as a rookie. Fourth-rounder **Cortez Allen** is a quick, yet raw cornerback who should develop into something more at the next level. **Chris Carter** played well at defensive end for Fresno State but the Steelers will likely want to try him as a linebacker.

Heyward

GRADE

A | **B+** | C | D | F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	31	Cameron Heyward	DE	6-5	294	Ohio State
2	31	Marcus Gilbert	OT	6-6	330	Florida
3	31	Curtis Brown	CB	6-0	180	Texas
4	31	Cortez Allen	CB	6-1	197	Citadel
5	31	Chris Carter	OLB	6-1	248	Fresno State
6	31	Keith Williams	G	6-4	318	Nebraska
7	29	Baron Batch	RB	5-10	207	Texas Tech

KEITH SRAKOCIC / AP

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
16 Batch, Charlie	QB	6-2	216	12/5/74	14	Eastern Michigan
10 Dixon, Dennis	QB	6-3	209	1/11/85	4	Oregon
4 Leftwich, Byron	QB	6-5	250	1/14/80	9	Marshall
7 Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	241	3/2/82	8	Miami (Ohio)

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
71 Adams, Flozell	T	6-7	338	5/18/75	14	Michigan State
77 Brooks, Dorian	G	6-2	306	4/16/87	1	James Madison
74 Colon, Willie	T	6-3	315	4/9/83	6	Hofstra
79 Essex, Trai	T	6-5	324	12/5/82	7	Northwestern
73 Foster, Ramon	G	6-6	325	1/7/86	3	Tennessee
Gilbert, Marcus	T	6-6	330	2/15/88	0	Florida
66 Hills, Tony	T	6-5	304	11/4/84	4	Texas
67 Jolly, Kyle	T	6-6	300	7/21/83	1	North Carolina
68 Kemoeatu, Chris	G	6-3	344	1/4/83	7	Utah
64 Legursky, Doug	C	6-1	315	6/9/86	3	Marshall
McCaskill, Nevin	T	6-4	304	12/29/83	1	Hampton
53 Pouncey, Maurkice	C	6-4	304	7/24/89	2	Florida
61 Scott, Chris	G	6-4	319	8/4/87	2	Tennessee
72 Scott, Jonathan	T	6-6	318	1/10/83	5	Texas
78 Starks, Max	T	6-8	345	1/10/82	8	Florida
60 Warren, Greg	C	6-3	252	10/18/81	7	North Carolina
Williams, Keith	G	6-4	318	4/8/88	0	Nebraska

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Batch, Baron	RB	5-10	207	12/21/89	0	Texas Tech
27 Dwyer, Jonathan	RB	5-11	229	7/26/89	2	Georgia Tech
Johnson, James	RB	5-11	205	9/6/84	1	Kansas State
McCoy, Jamie	RB	6-2	240	7/21/87	1	Texas A&M
34 Mendenhall, Rashard	RB	5-10	225	6/19/87	4	Illinois
21 Moore, Mewelde	RB	5-11	209	7/24/82	8	Tulane
33 Redman, Isaac	RB	6 0	230	11/10/84	2	Bowie State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Battle, Arnaz	WR	6-1	208	2/22/80	9	Notre Dame
84 Brown, Antonio	WR	5-10	186	7/10/88	2	Central Michigan
19 Grisham, Tyler	WR	5-11	180	6/11/87	1	Clemson
85 Johnson, David	TE	6-2	260	8/26/87	3	Arkansas State
Lyons, Wes	WR	6-8	231	9/12/88	0	West Virginia
83 Miller, Heath	TE	6-5	256	10/22/82	7	Virginia
82 Randle El, Antwaan	WR	5-10	185	8/17/79	10	Indiana
88 Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	3/17/87	2	SMU
89 Spaeth, Matt	TE	6-7	270	11/24/83	5	Minnesota
80 Sweed, Limas	WR	6-4	220	12/25/84	4	Texas
17 Wallace, Mike	WR	6-0	199	8/1/86	3	Ole Miss
86 Ward, Hines	WR	6-0	205	3/8/76	14	Georgia

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Atkins, Baraka	DE	6-4	268	9/28/84	3	Miami (Fla.)
87 Bright, Eugene	DE	6-4	268	4/18/85	1	Purdue
93 Eason, Nick	DT	6-3	305	5/29/80	9	Clemson
Ellis, Chris	DE	6-4	261	2/11/85	3	Virginia Tech
98 Hampton, Casey	DT	6-1	325	9/3/77	11	Texas
Harris, Ra'Shon	DT	6-5	300	8/26/86	2	Oregon
Heyward, Cameron	DE	6-5	294	5/6/89	0	Ohio State
76 Hoke, Chris	DT	6-2	305	4/6/76	10	BYU
96 Hood, Ziggy	DT	6-3	300	2/16/87	3	Missouri
99 Keisel, Brett	DE	6-5	285	9/19/78	10	BYU
69 McLendon, Steve	DT	6-4	280	1/3/86	2	Troy
91 Smith, Aaron	DE	6-5	298	4/19/76	13	Northern Colorado
56 Woodley, LaMarr	DE	6-2	265	11/3/84	5	Michigan
97 Worilds, Jason	DE	6-1	262	3/3/88	2	Virginia Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Allen, Cortez	CB	6-1	197	10/29/88	0	The Citadel
26 Allen, Will	S	6-1	200	6/17/82	8	Ohio State
Brown, Curtis	CB	6-0	180	9/24/88	0	Texas
28 Butler, Crezdon	CB	6-1	191	5/26/87	2	Clemson
25 Clark, Ryan	S	5-11	205	10/12/79	10	LSU
Cromartie-Smith, Da'Mon	S	6-2	210	2/17/87	1	UTEP
22 Gay, William	CB	5-10	190	1/1/85	5	Louisville
37 Harris, Tuff	S	6-0	198	1/23/83	4	Montana
23 Lewis, Keenan	CB	6-0	208	5/17/86	3	Oregon State
37 Madison, Anthony	CB	5-9	180	10/8/81	6	Alabama
20 McFadden, Bryant	CB	6-0	190	11/21/81	7	Florida State
29 Mundy, Ryan	S	6-1	209	2/11/85	3	West Virginia
43 Polamalu, Troy	S	5-10	207	4/19/81	9	USC
24 Taylor, Ike	CB	6-2	195	5/5/80	9	Louisiana-Lafayette
Warren, Donovan	CB	5-11	195	1/31/89	0	Michigan

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Carter, Chris	LB	6-1	248	4/6/89	0	Fresno State
51 Farrior, James	LB	6-2	243	1/6/75	15	Virginia
50 Foote, Larry	LB	6-1	239	6/12/80	10	Michigan
57 Fox, Keyaron	LB	6-3	235	1/24/82	8	Georgia Tech
92 Harrison, James	LB	6-0	242	5/4/78	8	Kent State
Ivy, Mortty	LB	6-1	239	4/26/86	1	West Virginia
McCoy, Chris	LB	6-3	261	11/25/86	1	Middle Tennessee
55 Sylvester, Stevenson	LB	6-2	231	7/18/88	2	Utah
94 Timmons, Lawrence	LB	6-1	234	5/14/86	5	Florida State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Kapinos, Jeremy	P	6-1	233	8/23/84	2	Penn State
9 Sepulveda, Daniel	P	6-3	230	1/12/84	5	Baylor
6 Suisham, Shaun	K	6-0	200	12/29/81	6	Bowling Green
Waters, Swayze	K	5-11	178	5/18/87	2	UAB

MIKE TOMLIN, Head coach

Bruce Arians, offensive coordinator; **Dick LeBeau,** defensive coordinator; **Al Everest,** special teams coordinator; **John Mitchell,** asst. head coach/defensive line; **Keith Butler,** linebackers; **James Daniel,** tight ends; **Randy Fichtner,** quarterbacks; **Amos Jones,** asst. special teams; **Sean Kugler,** offensive line; **Scottie Montgomery,** wide receivers; **Kirby Wilson,** running backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE TOMLIN

Tomlin has shown during his tenure as Pittsburgh's coach that he's not afraid to take chances, especially in short-yardage situations. His aggressive approach has hurt him a couple times, but the players respond to his challenges and he knows when to push their collective button.

SPECIAL TEAMS

This was an area that plagued the Steelers in 2009 when they missed the playoffs, necessitating a number of changes. Tomlin brought in Al Everest to run the special teams, and the result was a nice upgrade during a season in which the Steelers lost punter Daniel Sepulveda to another knee injury and released Jeff Reed, one of the league's most accurate kickers the previous three seasons.

Brown's 89-yard kick return for a touchdown in Week 2 in Tennessee was a big play, but the return units were spotty, at best, after that. The longest return of any kind after that was 48 yards.

The addition of kicker Shaun Suisham, who replaced Reed, was more than what the team expected. He converted 14 of 15 field goal attempts in the regular season. **GRADE: C+**

BOTTOM LINE

Pittsburgh has the talent and depth to make another run at the Super Bowl, especially since it returns a number of players who missed significant portions of last season with injuries. A big concern is that age has settled in on the defense, where five of the front seven starters will be 32 or older.

But that was also a source of concern last season, especially with Farrior, and there was no drop-off in production. If the defense defies age again and Roethlisberger continues his late-game heroics, the Steelers should again be in contention for the division title and postseason run.

90
FINAL GRADE

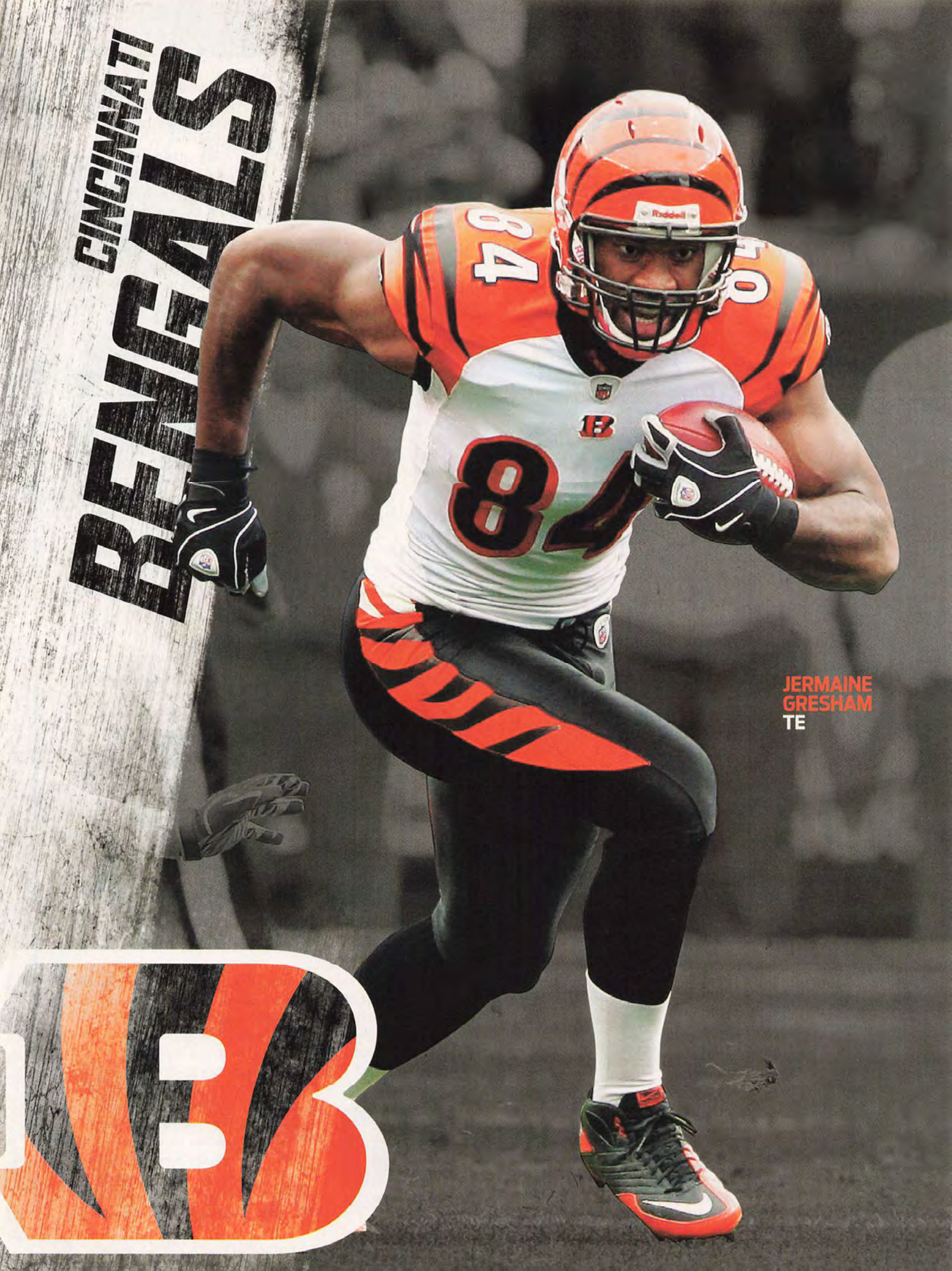
STOCK REPORT
UP

you have Troy Polamalu, the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 2010, at safety.

But all the warts were exposed in the Super Bowl when the Packers used four- and five-receiver sets to spread the field and force the cornerbacks into single coverage.

That's not a problem for Ike Taylor, who is one of the best in the league. But cornerback Bryant McFadden and even nickel back William Gay, who bounced back from a poor 2009 season, become liabilities in those situations and are often picked on by opposing offenses.

Polamalu played with several injuries late in the season, including a partially torn Achilles that limited his effectiveness in the playoffs and Super Bowl. The team is hoping Keenan Lewis, a third-round pick in 2009, and Crezdon Butler, a fifth-round choice in 2010, are ready to challenge McFadden for a starting spot. If not, the same problems will exist in 2011. **GRADE: B**


CINCINNATI
BENGALS
JERMAINE
GRESHAM
TE

As team heads into unknown future, it's turnover time in Cincinnati

By Chick Ludwig *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News*

The Bengals can hardly wait for the season to begin, because it signals a fresh start and the end of a nightmare. Losing 10 straight games en route to a 4-12 record in 2010 was bad enough. Having your franchise quarterback, Carson Palmer, threaten to retire if he isn't traded was worse.

Team president Mike Brown agreed to a two-year contract extension with Marvin Lewis, who enters his ninth season as the longest-tenured coach in franchise history.

The Bengals drafted receiver A.J. Green and quarterback Andy Dalton with their top two picks, hoping the team can recapture some magic.

"The offense is where we need to show improvement," Lewis says. "And when we do, we'll show that this team is ready to win the division again like we did two years ago. Our defense is strong and still improving, and one thing we did in 2010 was develop a number of promising new players."

OFFENSE

After 10 seasons, the Bengals' offense has a fresh face that offers a new direction.

Jay Gruden, the younger brother of former NFL head coach Jon Gruden, was hired as offensive coordinator to breathe life into a stagnant, predictable unit that finished 20th in total offense and 27th in rushing a year ago under the fired Bob Bratkowski.

Gruden's West Coast system is designed to spread the field with multiple weapons and involve all his skill-position players with an innovative, attacking style that will keep defenses off-balance.

Quarterbacks ▸ With Palmer's offseason uncertainty, a new era has seemingly dawned with Dalton at the controls of the most important position on the field.

Physically, mentally and emotionally beaten down by all the losing and drama, Palmer met with Brown in the offseason, requested a trade and claimed he'll retire if his wish isn't granted.

Brown stated publicly he has no intention of trading Palmer, and then tapped Dalton as the club's franchise quarterback of the future. In an ESPN interview during the draft, Lewis said the team's plans were "to move forward and go forward without Carson."

Dalton is ideal for Gruden's West Coast offense because he's smart, makes quick decisions and is a proven winner and an outstanding leader. Dalton's arm is strong, and his combination of accuracy and mobility is exactly what the Bengals are looking for.

Look for Dalton to win the starting job over the inexperienced Jordan Palmer, Carson's younger brother, and Dan LeFevour. Jordan has good size and arm strength, but makes questionable decisions in the pocket. LeFevour is worth developing because of his scrambling ability. **GRADE: C**

2010 RECORD

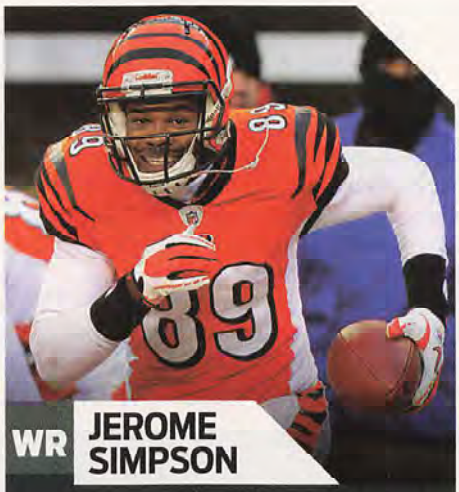
OVERALL: 4-12 HOME: 3-5

- **ONLINE:** www.bengals.com
- **STADIUM:** Paul Brown Stadium

Capacity: 65,535 **Turf:** FieldTurf
Tickets: 513-621-8383

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Georgetown (Ky.) College: 502-868-6300

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



WR JEROME SIMPSON

After three seasons of learning and maturing, Simpson stands on the brink of stardom. With hands the size of catcher's mitts, Simpson is a leaper who can snare a pass at its apex. He's become a more disciplined route-runner and shows breakaway speed.

BENGALS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Ken Riley (1969-83)	65	2	Louis Breeden (1978-87)	33	3	David Fulcher (1986-92)	31

JOHN SOMMERS II / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: GREG ASHMAN / CAL SPORT MEDIA

AFC NORTH

SN PICK **7-9**

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Andy Dalton Jordan Palmer
FB	Chris Pressley Fui Vakapuna
RB	Cedric Benson Bernard Scott
LT	Andrew Whitworth Anthony Collins
LG	Nate Livings Evan Mathis
C	Kyle Cook Reggie Stephens
RG	Bobbie Williams Clint Boling
RT	Andre Smith Dennis Roland
TE	Jermaine Gresham Chase Coffman
WR	Jerome Simpson Jordan Shipley
WR	A.J. Green Andre Caldwell
DEFENSE	
DE	Carlos Dunlap Robert Geathers
DT	Domata Peko Geno Atkins
DT	Pat Sims Tank Johnson
DE	Michael Johnson Antwan Odom
SLB	Rey Maualuga Dontay Moch
MLB	Dhani Jones Roddrick Muckelroy
WLB	Keith Rivers Brandon Johnson
LCB	Johnathan Joseph Adam Jones
SS	Roy Williams Chinedum Ndukwe
FS	Chris Crocker Robert Sands
RCB	Leon Hall Brandon Ghee
SPECIALISTS	
K	Mike Nugent
P	Kevin Huber
KR	Bernard Scott
PR	Adam Jones
LS	Clark Harris

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ CLEVELAND	SEPT. 11 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ DENVER	SEPT. 18 4:15	W / L
WEEK 3	SAN FRANCISCO	SEPT. 25 1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	BUFFALO	OCT. 2 1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	@ JACKSONVILLE	OCT. 9 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	INDIANAPOLIS	OCT. 16 1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	OPEN		
WEEK 8	@ SEATTLE	OCT. 30 4:15	W / L
WEEK 9	@ TENNESSEE	NOV. 6 4:05	W / L
WEEK 10	PITTSBURGH	NOV. 13 1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ BALTIMORE	NOV. 20 1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	CLEVELAND	NOV. 27 1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	@ PITTSBURGH	DEC. 4 1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	HOUSTON	DEC. 11 1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	@ ST. LOUIS	DEC. 18 1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	ARIZONA	DEC. 24 1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	BALTIMORE	JAN. 1 1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Running backs ▸ Cedric Benson's eyes glistened with tears when he crossed the 1,000-yard threshold for a second straight season in 2010. It was a personal triumph for the former first-round pick of the Bears, and vindication that he deserves mention in the discussion of the league's elite tailbacks.

A workhorse with a nice blend of speed and power, Benson's carries were up last season (321), but his yards-per-carry average (3.5) was down. Benson was an unrestricted free agent heading into the offseason but the Bengals' front office indicated that re-signing him was a top priority once a new collective bargaining agreement was signed.

Add versatile backups Bernard Scott and Brian Leonard to the mix, along with bruising fullbacks Chris Pressley and Fui Vakapuna, and running back becomes an area of strength, provided the injury bug doesn't bite. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ The club picked up the option on six-time Pro Bowler Chad Ochocinco in the offseason, but the 11-year veteran's career in Cincinnati looks finished with Green prepared to burst upon the scene.

Green fits the offense like a glove because he's highly advanced and versatile. He possesses the kind of great size, exceptional hands and blazing speed that will allow him to stretch the defense on deep balls, pile up yards after the catch and score in the red zone.

Ochocinco's swagger remains but he has lost a step, and his trademark trash-talking bravado and end-zone antics have grown stale. Terrell Owens and Ochocinco flopped as the much-ballyhooed "Batman and Robin," and they'll likely land elsewhere in 2011.

Green is the freshest face on a unit that includes Jordan Shipley, Jerome Simpson and Andre Caldwell, along with impact tight end Jermaine Gresham.

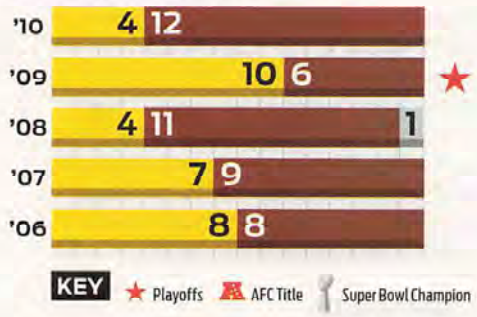
Gresham's route-running, soft hands and physical blocking make him the total package. His 52 receptions were a season record for a Bengals rookie tight end, and he also added 471 yards and four touchdowns.

Shipley was brilliant in the slot (52 catches, 600 yards, 3 TDs). He led all AFC rookies in receiving yards and tied Gresham for the conference rookie lead in catches. Simpson emerged as the unit's most pleasant surprise with 18 catches for 247 yards and three TDs in the last two games. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸ Known more for its run blocking than pass protection, this unit has been together long enough to realize it must become more consistent in order for Cincinnati's offense to have success this year.

Left tackle Andrew Whitworth, left guard Nate Livings, center Kyle Cook and right guard Bobbie Williams represent stability. But the wild card is at right tackle, where Andre Smith is attempting to wrestle the starting role away from Anthony Collins and Dennis Roland.

5-YEAR RECORD: 33-46-1



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Bengals)

"Looking at the Bengals, they're a dangerous team. It's hard to believe they finished 4-12 with all that talent. Offensively, they have a lot of good, young playmakers, especially at wide receiver and tight end. Defensively, they bring a lot of pressure. We beat them, but came out of the game thinking, 'Man, that team really played us hard.' ...

"They definitely do some things that challenge you in terms of protection, in terms of identifying where the issues are. They have a great defensive coordinator (in Mike Zimmer). He really has the right personnel for his scheme. You have to spend a lot of meeting time to figure out how to move the ball and how to get the ball in the end zone."

FANTASY SPIN

First-round pick A.J. Green has enough talent to play right away, but an unsettled quarterback situation will make him a hit-or-miss third receiver.

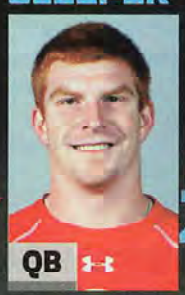
BUY

Cedric Benson

SELL

Andre Caldwell

SLEEPER



Andy Dalton

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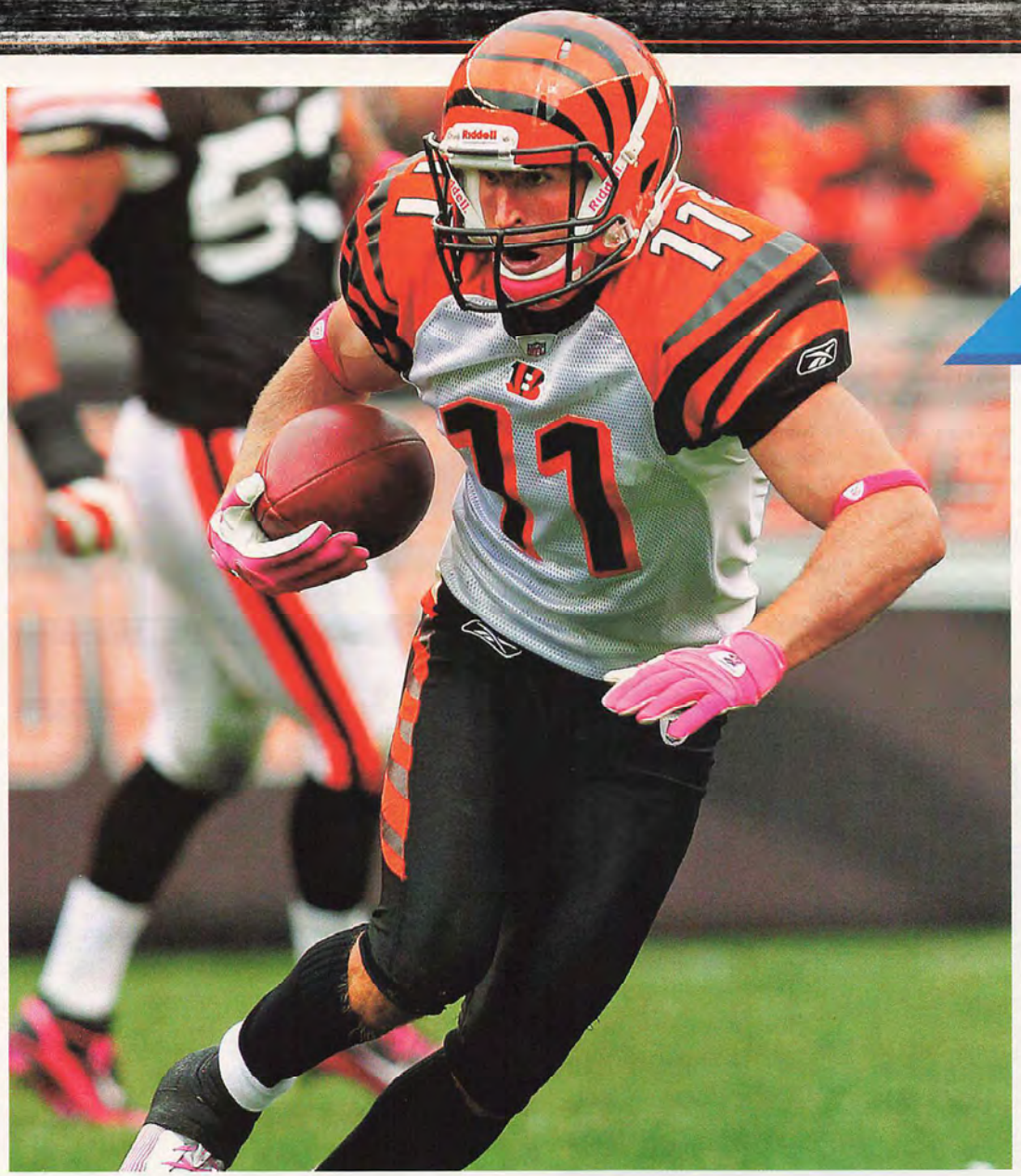


AARON JOSEFCZYK / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

JORDAN SHIPLEY

"He's been productive for them as a slot receiver and as a returner. He shows good running skills with the ball in his hands and good quickness. He catches it well. He's smart. I mean, that's what he played at Texas. He shows that experience from college, in terms of being able to get open and read coverages.

"It's obvious that the quarterbacks have a lot of confidence in him. They feed him the ball in there and he's done a nice job for them on the return team."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	330.6	20
Rushing	95.1	27
Passing	235.4	13
Scoring	322	22
Punt Returns	7.2	25
Kick Returns	21.8	20t
Red Zone TD %	49.1	21
Total Defense	332.0	15
Against Rush	115.2	19
Against Pass	216.8	14t
Points Allowed	395	24
Interceptions	16	14t
Sacks	27	27t
Turnover Diff.	-8	25t

The Bengals drafted Smith with the No. 6 overall pick in 2009 for the sole purpose of developing him into a dominant force. But injuries, weight issues and an inconsistent work ethic have led to two disastrous seasons, marred by left-foot fractures in back-to-back years.

Lewis claims Smith has "grown up as a man and as a pro," and is taking positive steps to improve. The line needs a healthy, productive Smith in order to reach its potential. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

Coordinator Mike Zimmer's 4-3 defense has experienced peaks and valleys the past two years, rising to fourth overall in 2009 only to fall to 15th last season when it was placed in harm's way by a mistake-prone offense.

Zimmer's philosophy is based on discipline and toughness and being gap-sound. His goal is to create third-and-long situations so he can utilize a variety of pressure packages.

Defensive line ▸ Linebacker Brandon Johnson came up with a nickname for the defensive front that features ends Carlos Dunlap and Michael Johnson and tackles Pat Sims and Geno Atkins: "The Fisher-Price Package."

Young and restless, the foursome came on strong in the second half of 2010 after injuries sidelined veterans Antwan Odom, Tank Johnson, Jonathan Fanene and Frostee Rucker. Competition will be fierce for jobs this season, but the young guns won't be denied.

Dunlap, a 2010 second-round pick, proved to be the steal of the draft when he erupted for 9.5 sacks. He became the first rookie to lead the team in sacks since 1990.

Michael Johnson's versatility enables him to play inside in the nickel package, where he swats passes with his 6-7 frame.

Atkins and Sims get instant leverage with their low center of gravity, allowing them to penetrate the backfield. If Odom stays healthy, the pass rush should produce positive results.
GRADE: C+

Linebackers ▸ Middle linebacker Dhani Jones can't afford to look back. If he does, he'll find Roddrick Muckelroy gaining on him. Jones is the leader of the defense, but he has lost a step and is a liability in coverage. Muckelroy, meanwhile, is poised to claim a starting role after paying his dues on special teams.

Two veterans, strongside linebacker Rey Maualuga and weakside linebacker Keith Rivers, will help in Muckelroy's development.

Rivers and Maualuga have been steady and productive. But their résumés could use an infusion of more big plays. One sack each last season for the former USC stars is nowhere near good enough.

Maualuga brings excitement to the field with his relentless style. He's gaining confidence in his role on the strong side. Now it's time for Rivers to step forward. He's equipped with good speed and range, but is so concerned about being precise with his responsibilities that his true talent doesn't shine through. Luckily for the Bengals, key backup Brandon Johnson has the skill and experience to fill in on either side. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸ You can't mention Johnathan Joseph without Leon Hall, and vice versa. Together, they represent one of the top cornerback tandems in the league. Both possess

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	24-38	New England Patriots
09/19	W	15-10	Baltimore Ravens
09/26	W	20-7	Carolina Panthers
10/03	L	20-23	Cleveland Browns
10/10	L	21-24	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/24	L	32-39	Atlanta Falcons
10/31	L	14-22	Miami Dolphins
11/08	L	21-27	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/14	L	17-23	Indianapolis Colts
11/21	L	31-49	Buffalo Bills
11/25	L	10-26	New York Jets
12/05	L	30-34	New Orleans Saints
12/12	L	7-23	Pittsburgh Steelers
12/19	W	19-17	Cleveland Browns
12/26	W	34-20	San Diego Chargers
01/02	L	7-13	Baltimore Ravens

WON 4, LOST 12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Benson	321	1111	3.5	26	7
Scott	61	299	4.9	18	1
Leonard	9	61	6.8	42	0
C. Palmer	32	50	1.6	9	0
Simpson	1	2	2.0	2	0
Peerman	2	1	0.5	1	0
Pressley	1	0	0.0	0	0
Caldwell	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
CINCINNATI	428	1522	3.6	42	8
OPPONENTS	416	1843	4.4	61	15

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Owens	72	983	13.7	78	9
Ochocinco	67	831	12.4	42	4
Gresham	52	471	9.1	27	4
Shipley	52	600	11.5	64	3
Benson	28	178	6.4	24	1
Caldwell	25	345	13.8	53	0
Leonard	20	137	6.9	20	1
Simpson	20	277	13.9	59	3
Scott	11	60	5.5	25	0
Kelly	10	42	4.2	9	0
Coffman	3	30	10.0	14	0
Cosby	2	16	8.0	11	0
Peerman	1	11	11.0	11	0
Pressley	1	6	6.0	6	0
Whitworth	1	1	1.0	1	1
CINCINNATI	365	3988	10.9	78	26
OPPONENTS	326	3469	10.6	54	21

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
C. Palmer	586	362	3970	26	20
J. Palmer	3	3	18	0	0
Ochocinco	1	0	0	0	0
CINCINNATI	590	365	3988	26	20
OPPONENTS	514	326	3648	21	16

SACKS CINCINNATI 27, OPPONENTS 28

Dunlap 9.5, Atkins 3, Johnson 2.5, Sims 2.5, Crocker 2, Geathers 1, Jones 1, Maualuga 1, Rivers 1, Rucker 1, Williams 1. Johnson 0.5. Ndukwe 0.5. Peko 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

The Bengals were smart to grab wide receiver **A.J. Green** with the fourth overall pick, as he is an elite talent who can open up their offense with his big-play ability. With the uncertainty surrounding Carson Palmer, Cincinnati next took TCU's **Andy Dalton** at the top of the second round. He has the athleticism, arm strength, accurate passing ability and intangibles to develop into a quality starter.

Finding **Dontay Moch** in the third round and **Clint Boling** in the fourth was fortunate, if unglamorous. Both were good college players who have the talent to become starters in the NFL. Moch will contribute as a pass rusher and linebacker, while Boling's versatility will give him an opportunity to start at offensive tackle or guard.

Ryan Whalen was a steal in the sixth round, as he has solid size, strength, hands and receiving skills. He'll be a good backup receiver, and his toughness should get him a spot on special teams immediately.

Green

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	4	A.J. Green	WR	6-4	211	Georgia
2	3	Andy Dalton	QB	6-2	215	TCU
3	2	Dontay Moch	OLB	6-1	248	Nevada
4	4	Clint Boling	G	6-5	308	Georgia
5	3	Robert Sands	FS	6-0	221	West Virginia
6	2	Ryan Whalen	WR	6-1	202	Stanford
7	4	Korey Lindsey	CB	5-10	182	Southern Illinois
7	43	Jay Finley	RB	5-11	198	Baylor

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Dalton, Andy QB	6-2	215	10/29/87	0	TCU
8	LeFevour, Dan QB	6-3	230	3/19/87	2	Central Michigan
9	Palmer, Carson QB	6-5	236	12/27/79	9	USC
5	Palmer, Jordan QB	6-5	232	5/30/84	4	UTEP

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Boling, Clint G	6-5	308	5/8/89	0	Georgia
72	Chambers, Kirk T	6-7	315	3/19/79	7	Stanford
73	Collins, Anthony T	6-5	324	11/2/85	4	Kansas
64	Cook, Kyle C	6-3	316	7/25/83	4	Michigan State
	Gardner, Andrew T	6-6	305	4/4/86	2	Georgia Tech
60	Hudson, Otis G	6-5	320	7/19/86	1	Eastern Illinois
66	Mathis, Evan G	6-5	302	11/1/81	7	Alabama
76	Mitchell, Andrew T	6-5	308	6/12/85	2	Oklahoma State
63	Williams, Bobbie G	6-4	345	9/25/76	12	Arkansas
67	Livings, Nate G	6-5	332	3/16/82	4	LSU
74	Roland, Dennis T	6-9	320	3/10/83	4	Georgia
71	Smith, Andre T	6-4	345	1/25/87	3	Alabama
61	Stephens, Reggie C	6-3	320	8/28/87	2	Iowa State
77	Whitworth, Andrew T	6-7	335	12/12/81	6	LSU

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32	Benson, Cedric RB	5-11	227	12/28/82	7	Texas
	Develin, James RB	6-3	260	7/23/88	1	Brown
	Finley, Jay RB	5-11	198	5/13/88	0	Baylor
40	Leonard, Brian RB	6-1	225	2/3/84	5	Rutgers
86	Mills, Garrett RB	6-1	235	10/12/83	5	Tulsa
30	Peerman, Cedric RB	5-9	210	10/10/86	2	Virginia
36	Pressley, Chris RB	5-11	260	8/8/86	3	Wisconsin
28	Scott, Bernard RB	5-10	197	2/10/84	3	Abilene Christian
37	Vakapuna, Fui RB	6-0	257	3/9/84	3	BYU

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
87	Caldwell, Andre WR	6-0	195	4/15/85	4	Florida
80	Coffman, Chase TE	6-6	250	11/10/86	3	Missouri
12	Cosby, Quan WR	5-9	190	12/23/82	3	Texas
	Green, A.J. WR	6-4	211	7/31/88	0	Georgia
84	Gresham, Jermaine TE	6-5	261	6/16/88	2	Oklahoma
46	Harris, Clark TE	6-5	260	7/10/84	3	Rutgers
17	Hodge, Shay WR	6-1	209	10/18/87	1	Ole Miss
82	Kelly, Reggie TE	6-4	257	2/22/77	13	Mississippi State
85	Ochocinco, Chad WR	6-1	192	1/9/78	11	Oregon State
81	Owens, Terrell WR	6-3	224	12/7/73	16	Chattanooga
11	Shipley, Jordan WR	5-11	193	12/23/85	2	Texas
89	Simpson, Jerome WR	6-2	195	2/4/86	4	Coastal Carolina
	Whalen, Ryan WR	6-1	202	7/26/89	0	Stanford

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95	Adeyanju, Victor DE	6-4	284	2/11/83	6	Indiana
97	Atkins, Geno DT	6-1	293	3/28/88	2	Georgia
96	Dunlap, Carlos DE	6-6	277	2/28/89	2	Florida
68	Fanene, Jonathan DE	6-4	292	3/19/82	7	Utah
91	Geathers, Robert DE	6-3	280	8/11/83	8	Georgia
93	Johnson, Michael DE	6-7	268	2/7/87	3	Georgia Tech
99	Johnson, Tank DT	6-3	315	12/7/81	8	Washington
69	McDonald, Clinton DT	6-2	297	1/6/87	2	Memphis
98	Odom, Antwan DE	6-5	275	9/24/81	8	Alabama
94	Peko, Domata DT	6-3	320	11/27/84	6	Michigan State
92	Rucker, Frostee DE	6-3	280	9/14/83	6	USC
	Ruffin, James DE	6-4	263	2/6/87	1	Northern Iowa
70	Shirley, Jason DT	6-5	345	9/30/05	3	Fresno State
90	Sims, Pat DT	6-2	325	11/29/85	4	Auburn

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
23	Bennett, Fred CB	6-1	200	12/31/83	5	South Carolina
42	Crocker, Chris S	5-11	202	3/9/80	9	Marshall
21	Ghee, Brandon CB	6-0	192	6/6/87	2	Wake Forest
29	Hall, Leon CB	5-11	195	12/9/84	5	Michigan
24	Jones, Adam CB	5-10	188	9/30/83	5	West Virginia
22	Joseph, Johnathan CB	5-11	190	4/16/84	6	South Carolina
	Lindsey, Korey CB	5-10	182	2/3/89	0	Southern Illinois
45	Miles, Jeromy S	6-2	215	7/20/87	2	Massachusetts
44	Murray, Rico CB	5-11	200	8/21/87	2	Kent State
41	Ndukwe, Chinedum S	6-2	224	3/4/85	5	Notre Dame
20	Nelson, Reggie S	5-11	206	9/21/83	5	Florida
43	Nelson, Tom S	5-11	200	12/4/86	3	Illinois State
	Pender, David CB	6-0	180	12/4/87	1	Purdue
34	Ratliff, Keiwan LB	5-11	188	4/19/81	7	Florida
	Sands, Robert S	6-0	221	4/3/89	0	West Virginia
25	Trent, Morgan CB	6-1	193	12/14/85	3	Michigan
26	Wade, Jonathan CB	5-11	200	3/27/84	5	Tennessee
47	White, Marvin S	6-1	199	12/5/83	4	TCU
31	Williams, Roy S	6-0	222	8/14/80	10	Oklahoma
27	Wilson, Gibril S	6-0	210	11/12/81	8	Tennessee

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59	Johnson, Brandon LB	6-5	240	4/5/83	6	Louisville
57	Jones, Dhani LB	6-1	236	2/22/78	12	Michigan
58	Maualuga, Rey LB	6-2	255	1/20/87	3	USC
	Moch, Dontay LB	6-1	248	7/19/88	0	Nevada
56	Muckelroy, Roddrick LB	6-2	246	10/27/86	2	Texas
53	Rey, Vincent LB	6-2	244	9/6/87	1	Duke
55	Rivers, Keith LB	6-2	242	5/5/86	4	USC
51	Skuta, Dan LB	6-2	252	4/21/86	3	Grand Valley State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10	Huber, Kevin P	6-1	210	7/16/85	3	Cincinnati
2	Nugent, Mike K	5-10	186	3/2/82	7	Ohio State
3	Stitser, Clint K	6-1	200	5/19/85	1	Fresno State

MARVIN LEWIS, Head coach

Jay Gruden, offensive coordinator; **Mike Zimmer,** defensive coordinator; **Darrin Simmons,** special teams; **Paul Alexander,** asst. head coach/offensive line; **Jim Anderson,** running backs; **Kevin Coyle,** defensive backs; **Jeff FitzGerald,** linebackers; **Paul Guenther,** asst. special teams/asst. defensive backs; **Jay Hayes,** defensive line; **Jonathan Hayes,** tight ends; **James Urban,** wide receivers; **Ken Zampese,** quarterbacks

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MARVIN LEWIS

Lewis is a conservative coach who prefers winning with no tricks or gimmicks. The former defensive coordinator in Baltimore and Washington does a great job of keeping his team motivated during adversity, but clock management is a weakness. He wants a pressure defense that causes turnovers, and an offense that builds leads and uses a clock-killing ground game in the fourth quarter.

outstanding speed, ball skills and toughness in run support.

The problem is at the back end of the defense, where strong safety Roy Williams and free safety Chris Crocker are in the 11th hour of their careers, while backups Chinedum Ndukwe and Gibril Wilson are coming off season-ending knee injuries.

The Bengals began planning for their future at free safety prior to the 2010 season when they traded for Reggie Nelson, who produced two interceptions last year.

What makes Hall and Joseph (a restricted free agent) special is their versatility. The duo can turn and run with the league's fastest wideouts, and do a good job of tracking the ball in the air. **GRADE: C-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The club has a pair of explosive playmakers in return specialists Scott (kickoffs) and Adam Jones (punts), a solid punter in Kevin Huber and an accomplished long snapper in Clark Harris.

But the biggest question mark is kicker, where Mike Nugent is rehabbing from a torn ACL suffered on an onside kick. Nugent converted 15 of 19 field goal attempts, including two kicks of 50-plus yards, and earned AFC Special Teams Player of the Month for September before he went on injured reserve Nov. 15.

Nugent's replacement, Clint Stitser, earned a berth on *Sporting News'* All-Rookie Team, but isn't viewed as the long-term answer. He was good on seven of eight field goal attempts, but missed from 29 yards and failed on two extra-point tries. **GRADE: D**

BOTTOM LINE

Carson Palmer has left the building, promising to never return to Paul Brown Stadium wearing Bengals stripes. When your franchise quarterback says he wants out and that he's willing to forfeit $58 million remaining on his contract that runs through 2014 if he isn't traded, it's a clear sign the franchise needs a new direction and attitude.

All the team can do is move forward without him and hope a new quarterback, receiver and coordinator prosper in what should be an exciting offensive system. For a franchise that hasn't won a playoff game since the 1990 season (the longest current drought in the NFL), the 2011 campaign holds at least one guarantee: The Bengals won't be boring.

79 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT

STEADY

4

AFC NORTH

SN PICK **5-11**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Colt McCoy Seneca Wallace
FB	Owen Marecic
RB	Peyton Hillis Montario Hardesty
LT	Joe Thomas Steve Vallos
LG	Eric Steinbach Billy Yates
C	Alex Mack Pat Murray
RG	Floyd Womack Shawn Lauvao
RT	Tony Pashos Steve Vallos
TE	Benjamin Watson Jordan Cameron
WR	Brian Robiskie Josh Cribbs
WR	Mohamed Massaquoi Greg Little
DEFENSE	
DE	Jabaal Sheard Robaire Smith
DT	Ahtyba Rubin Scott Paxson
DT	Phil Taylor Brian Schaefering
DE	Marcus Benard Jayme Mitchell
SLB	Chris Gocong Eric Alexander
MLB	Scott Fujita Titus Brown
WLB	D'Qwell Jackson Kaluka Maiava
LCB	Joe Haden DeAngelo Smith
SS	T.J. Ward Nick Sorensen
FS	Abram Elam Mike Adams
RCB	Sheldon Brown Eric Wright
SPECIALISTS	
K	Phil Dawson
P	Reggie Hodges
KR	Josh Cribbs
PR	Josh Cribbs
LS	Ryan Pontbriand

Broken record? Third coach in four years will try and turn around Browns

By Steve Doerschuk *Canton (Ohio) Repository*

After a short, ill-fated run for "The Odd Couple," the Browns' never-ending struggle to get the show on the road shifts to the "Three Amigos."

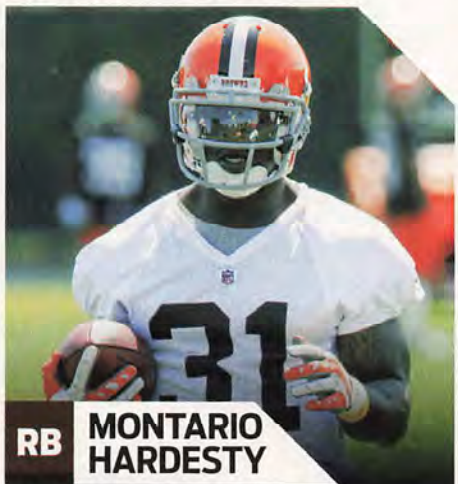
In his first year as Browns president, Mike Holmgren thought he could make it work with Eric Mangini. However, it turned out to be a mirage, with the result another 5-11 season, including an 0-4 finish.

Enter Pat Shurmur as the third head coach in four years. General manager Tom Heckert and Holmgren hit it off in their first year in Cleveland, and now they're working with Shurmur, who spent eight years with Heckert in Philadelphia.

Last year wasn't a total loss. The Browns nearly beat the Saints and Patriots and came close to defeating the Jets but let a chance in overtime slip away.

"I thought we were pretty competitive last year in most games against really good teams," Holmgren says. "If we can build on that, we have a chance to improve."

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



RB MONTARIO HARDESTY

The initial plan was for Hardesty to be Cleveland's No. 1 running back based on his size, speed and talent. However, his season-ending knee injury allowed Peyton Hillis to break through. Hillis still needs a sidekick to save mileage. The new plan is for Hardesty to be that sidekick.

OFFENSE

Being a first-time head coach doubling up as offensive coordinator, Shurmur runs the risk of overload. Shurmur will be installing a West Coast attack, and will be able to lean on Holmgren, who has gold mines of West Coast knowledge.

The passing game has been weak of late. It will take time for West Coast principles to take root—and to prove Holmgren's theory that the existing talent isn't as bad as it seems.

Quarterbacks ▸ Shurmur professes to be "a Colt McCoy guy," crediting last year's third-round pick for playing "extremely well at times." McCoy as a long-term solution, though, remains a theory.

McCoy's best games as a rookie came when the opposition's book on him was thin and the weather was warm. His best work, albeit in a loss, was a duel against the Jets and Mark Sanchez in which McCoy led clutch drives late in regulation.

There's no evidence McCoy's spirit was crushed in a disappointing season, though. He maintained an engaging leadership style wrapped around a core of strong self-confidence. He'll have to prove his style of throwing is better suited to a West Coast passing game built on timing and runs after the catch. For now, the Browns' brass is betting that he can.

If McCoy falters or gets hurt, Seneca Wallace will get his latest chance to prove he is a worthy NFL starter. Wallace is just 6-12 as a regular but showed resilience in picking up Mangini's offense last year. Jake Delhomme was a good mentor to McCoy in 2010 and might be back to continue those duties and be a safety net if injuries hit. **GRADE: C**

Running backs ▸ The Browns haven't had a top-flight grinder with staying

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 5-11 HOME: 3-5

- **ONLINE:** www.clevelandbrowns.com
- **STADIUM:** Cleveland Browns Stadium

Capacity: 73,200 **Turf:** Grass

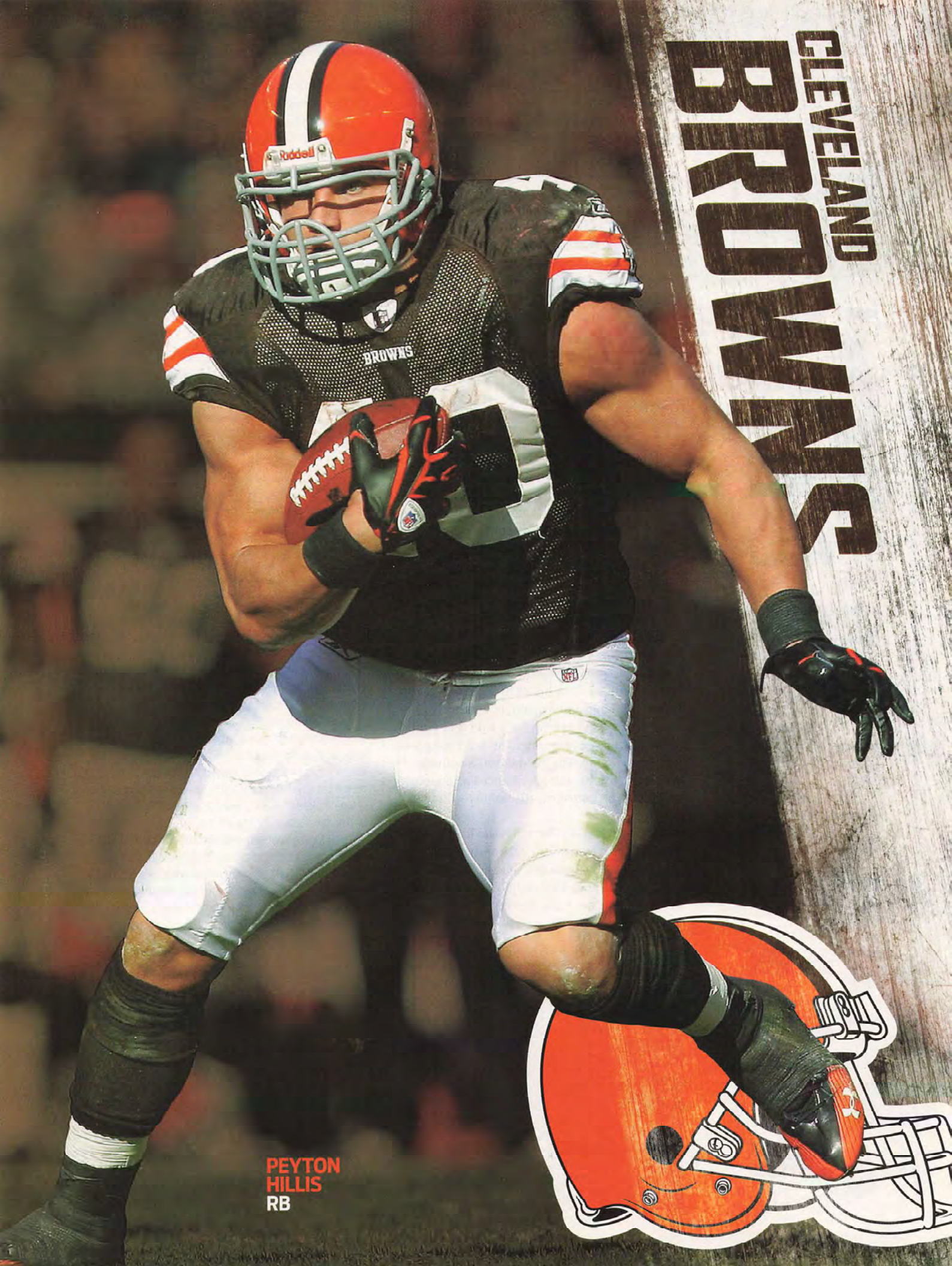
Tickets: 440-824-3434

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Cleveland Browns Training and Administrative Complex, Berea, Ohio; 440-891-5000

BROWNS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Thom Darden** *(1972-81)*	**45**	2	**Warren Lahr** *(1949-59)*	**44**	3	**Clarence R. Scott** *(1971-83)*	**39**

TOM CAMMETT / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE: MATT SULLIVAN / GETTY IMAGES


CLEVELAND
BROWNS
PEYTON
HILLIS
RB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	CINCINNATI	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ INDIANAPOLIS	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	MIAMI	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	TENNESSEE	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	OPEN			
WEEK 6	@ OAKLAND	OCT. 16	4:05	W / L
WEEK 7	SEATTLE	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	@ SAN FRANCISCO	OCT. 30	4:15	W / L
WEEK 9	@ HOUSTON	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	ST. LOUIS	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	JACKSONVILLE	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	@ CINCINNATI	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	BALTIMORE	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ PITTSBURGH	DEC. 8	8:20	W / L
WEEK 15	@ ARIZONA	DEC. 18	4:15	W / L
WEEK 16	@ BALTIMORE	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	PITTSBURGH	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

power since Mike Pruitt in the 1980s. Now, Peyton Hillis has a chance to fill the void. Acquiring Hillis from the Broncos last season was a rare personnel steal for Cleveland.

The 6-1, 240-pound Hillis isn't just a slammer, although that's where he excels. He has deceptive speed and athleticism. However, Hillis' style subjects him to thunderous hits and nagging injuries. He's only 25, but won't last unless the team uses another back to share the load with him. The plan is for Montario Hardesty to be that player.

A torn ACL last preseason wrecked Hardesty's chance to be the feature back and gave Hillis his chance. Hardesty's rehab has been promising, however.

Stanford's Owen Marecic was drafted in the fourth round this year to replace Lawrence Vickers at fullback. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ➤ Tight end Benjamin Watson had a career year after making the jump from New England. Big enough to be an effective blocker, he is among the fastest in the league at his position and can stretch the middle of the field. Watson is also an ideal mentor for 2011 fourth-round draft pick Jordan Cameron, who has the physical tools to be a future starter.

Brian Robiskie and Mohamed Massaquoi were a weak one-two punch starting at receiver last season. Both are tall and smart, but their confidence in the old offense was up, down and sometimes out.

Second-rounder Greg Little has the size and athleticism to pass Massaquoi and Robiskie on the depth chart. However, he must get back in the flow after losing his 2010 season at North Carolina to improper dealings with an agent.

Josh Cribbs is itching for a role that would show off the big-play magic he has brought to the return game. The Wildcat offense might be scrapped, but he will get chances as an extra wideout if he can show discipline on routes. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ➤ The right side kept this unit from being an elite line in 2010 and threatens to stand in the way again this season. The plan is to work veteran Tony Pashos into the right-tackle job. If healthy, the burly Pashos gives the team an experienced mauler who plays with a mean streak. But he managed just three starts in 2010 before going on injured reserve (ankle).

Floyd "Pork Chop" Womack knows the West Coast drill—he spent eight years with Holmgren in Seattle—and could be functional at right guard, but he is 33. Shawn Lauvao will get a chance to win the job, but was disappointing in his only 2010 start and seemed lost at times.

The only issues at the other three positions have to do with left guard Eric Steinbach's age (31) and high mileage. The bright side is that Steinbach played a full 2010 and had a strong year. Joe Thomas has everything any NFL team

5-YEAR RECORD: 28-52

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Browns)

"I thought they were a tough team last year. They lacked that leadership that they need on offense. They have a lot of young talent on both sides. I think they just lack the leadership. Once they get the leadership, I think the franchise has a chance to be as good as it was in the '80s. ...

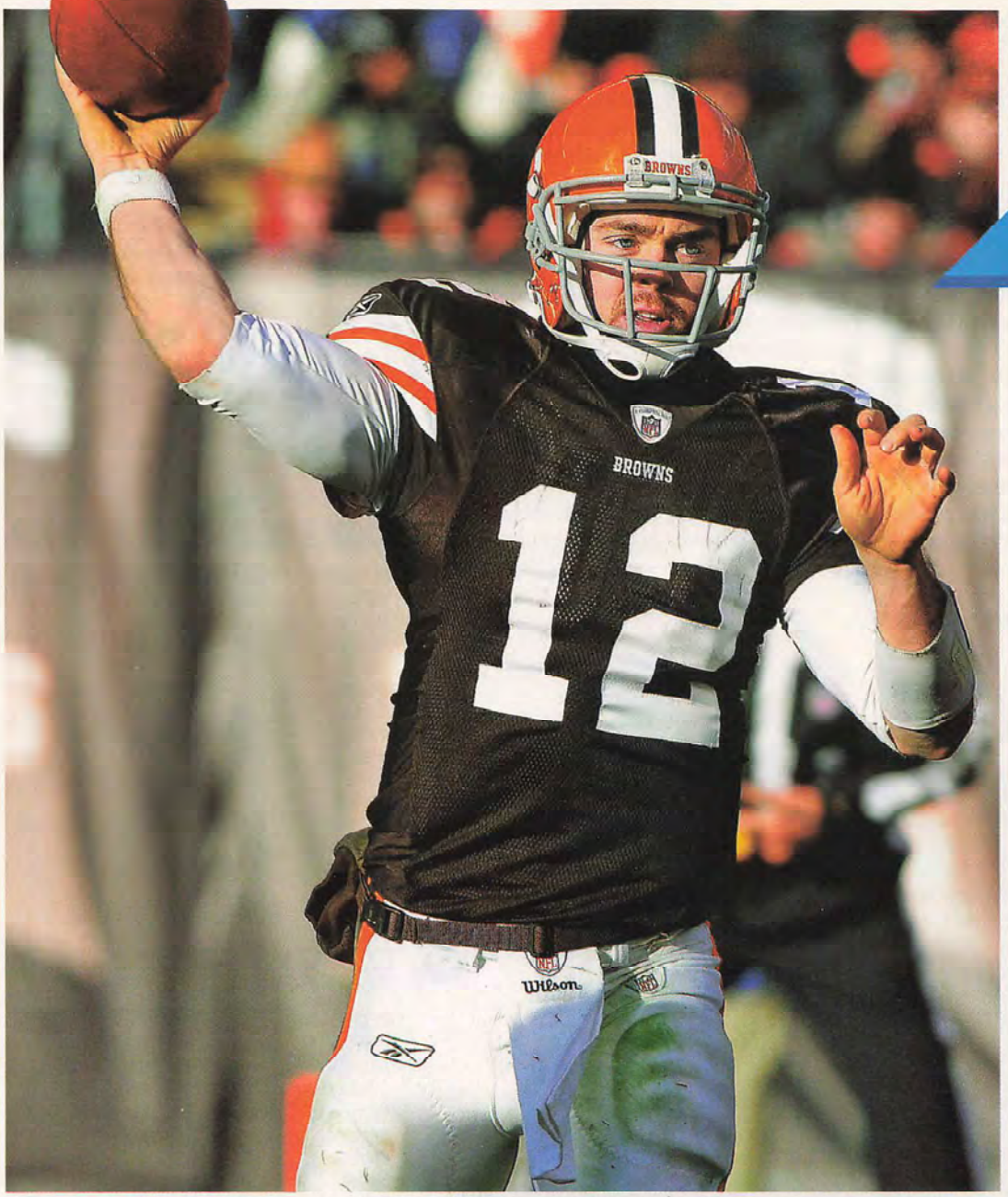
"Joe Haden is the real deal. You don't have to watch him very long to tell he's going to be one of the best corners in the league. He plays with a lot of confidence. He'll be a leader for them for years. They didn't have an impact guy in their front seven last year. You'll have to wait and see how things shake out, but it's hard to see how they'll be much better at first, switching to a 4-3. ...

"Colt McCoy kept his head when he played against us last year, but he didn't hurt us. The jury is out. He'll have to grow, and he'll have to learn to trust what he sees. That's always hard for a rookie, and you never know what he'll do with his learning. He didn't have a lot of weapons with him last year. He needs some help."

FANTASY SPIN

Peyton Hillis emerged as a hero for the Browns, but averaged just 54.4 rushing yards over his last five games. Cleveland's move to the West Coast offense makes Hillis a risky fantasy pick.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



JASON MILLER / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

COLT McCOY

"I think he should keep doing what he's doing. I think he can be a player. They're making changes on their offense, but it looks like they're going to turn to him to be their guy, which I think is a good decision. ...

"McCoy is a smart kid. Very smart. You can tell he studies hard. He deserves his reputation for being a winner, based on what he did at Texas. Obviously, he's got to prove he can develop that reputation at this level. ... One thing that seems obvious about him: He's not afraid to be out there. He has the poise. He thinks he belongs. That's half the battle."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	289.7	29
Rushing	102.9	20
Passing	186.8	29
Scoring	271	31
Punt Returns	10.7	11
Kick Returns	17.0	32
Red Zone TD %	45.2	25
Total Defense	350.1	22
Against Rush	129.4	27
Against Pass	220.7	18
Points Allowed	332	13
Interceptions	19	8t
Sacks	29	25t
Turnover Diff.	-1	15t

would want in a left tackle: size, toughness, technique, smarts, dedication and youth (he's 26). If healthy, look for a fifth straight Pro Bowl bid.

Center Alex Mack played well as a 2009 rookie and then went to the Pro Bowl as a sophomore. **GRADE: B+**

DEFENSE

It won't be as hard to break the old habits of a 3-4 defense as one might think. The Browns are converting to a 4-3 after six years in a 3-4 scheme. When Heckert took over in 2010, his roster moves anticipated a possible change. His two biggest free-agent additions, linebackers Scott Fujita and Chris Gocong, had backgrounds in a 4-3.

Now, with coordinator Dick Jauron at the controls, first- and second-round picks this year were spent on players (Phil Taylor, Jabaal Sheard) intended to answer questions up front.

Defensive line ▸ The good news is that Ahtyba Rubin has turned into a terrific player after being drafted in the sixth round in 2008. The bad news: There are no other proven starters.

The Browns addressed that issue in a big way by drafting the 334-pound Taylor. He can gobble up double-teams that will create man-to-man rush options for Sheard, who will start immediately at end.

Rubin's progress has been remarkable while replacing former Pro Bowler Shaun Rogers (who was cut in the offseason). Rubin is a first-rate run stopper who has developed a knack for penetration as a rusher.

Marcus Benard has too much talent to

brush aside in a scheme change—he led the Browns last year with 7.5 sacks—but it's debatable whether he can be a solid run stopper. Veteran end Robaire Smith wants to extend his career, but banking on him as more than a backup seems unwise due to injuries and age (34). Brian Schaefering started nine games last year and proved versatile. **GRADE: C-**

Linebackers ➤ Veterans Scott Fujita, Chris Gocong and D'Qwell Jackson are the likely starters here, but all three have issues.

Fujita brings enough size, athleticism and experience to master a middle linebacker or strong-side assignment. However, he's approaching his 10th pro season and has progressively missed more games in each of the last four years. When he went down with a season-ending knee injury in Game 9, the team's bubble burst.

Jackson has been an efficient starter on the inside. He could be better on the weak side in a 4-3, where his high motor and excellent instincts point to high tackle numbers. However, his last two seasons have been wrecked by pectoral muscle injuries.

Gocong spent his first four NFL campaigns in Philadelphia's 4-3, but was just an adequate starter in the middle and on the strong side. The trick for Jauron will be to find a role in which Gocong can flourish.

Kaluka Maiava is one of the smallest linebackers in the league but is tough and has the quickness to help. **GRADE: C**

Secondary ➤ Browns fans accustomed to failed drafts got that familiar

DRAFT REPORT

The Browns drafted defensive tackle **Phil Taylor** with their first pick, as defensive coordinator Dick Jauron likes having two big tackles in the middle of his line. Pairing Taylor with Ahtyba Rubin gives Cleveland a tandem that can shut down the inside run and protect the linebackers. Second-rounder **Jabaal Sheard** gives the Browns another explosive and athletic pass rusher at tackle. Sheard will help the team switch to a 4-3 scheme and could turn out to be a better end than many draftees chosen before him.

Greg Little has the hands, toughness and receiving skills to be a good possession receiver and security blanket for quarterback Colt McCoy. In the fourth round, the Browns sought out the athletic **Jordan Cameron**, a tight end with the skills to develop at the next level. Cleveland later found two players with a lot of upside in cornerback **Buster Skrine** and offensive tackle **Jason Pinkston**, both of whom could become starters or key reserves by 2012.

Taylor

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	21	Phil Taylor	DT	6-4	355	Baylor
2	5	Jabaal Sheard	DE	6-3	264	Pittsburgh
2	27	Greg Little	WR	6-2	231	North Carolina
4	5	Jordan Cameron	TE	6-5	254	USC
4	27	Owen Marecic	FB	6-0	248	Stanford
5	6	Buster Skrine	CB	5-10	186	Chattanooga
5	19	Jason Pinkston	OT	6-3	317	Pittsburgh
7	45	Eric Hagg	FS	6-1	206	Nebraska

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	14-17	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
09/19	L	14-16	Kansas City Chiefs
09/26	L	17-24	Baltimore Ravens
10/03	W	23-20	Cincinnati Bengals
10/10	L	10-20	Atlanta Falcons
10/17	L	10-28	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/24	W	30-17	New Orleans Saints
11/07	W	34-14	New England Patriots
1/14	L	20-26	New York Jets
11/21	L	20-24	Jacksonville Jaguars
11/28	W	24-23	Carolina Panthers
12/05	W	13-10	Miami Dolphins
12/12	L	6-13	Buffalo Bills
12/19	L	17-19	Cincinnati Bengals
12/26	L	10-20	Baltimore Ravens
01/02	L	9-41	Pittsburgh Steelers

WON 5, LOST 11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Hillis	270	1177	4.4	48	11
McCoy	28	136	4.9	18	1
Harrison	31	91	2.9	39	0
Bell	31	71	2.3	11	0
Hodges	1	68	68.0	68	0
Cribbs	20	66	3.3	19	0
Vickers	5	11	2.2	3	0
Wallace	7	9	1.3	6	0
Davis	4	9	2.3	4	0
Stuckey	3	9	3.0	11	1
Mitchell	1	9	9.0	9	0
Clayton	1	0	0.0	0	0
Watson	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Delhomme	8	-2	-0.3	2	0
Massaquoi	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Figurs	1	-4	-4.0	0	0
CLEVELAND	413	1646	4.0	68	13
OPPONENTS	505	2070	4.1	55	7

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Watson	68	763	11.2	44	3
Hillis	61	477	7.8	47	2
Stuckey	40	346	8.7	25	0
Massaquoi	36	483	13.4	41	2
Robiskie	29	310	10.7	46	3
Cribbs	23	292	12.7	65	1
Moore	16	322	20.1	49	1
Bell	6	62	10.3	28	0
Royal	5	56	11.2	20	1
Harrison	4	42	10.5	23	0
Vickers	4	15	3.8	10	0
McCoy	1	13	13.0	13	0
Wallace	1	9	9.0	9	0
Aiken	1	7	7.0	7	0
Smith	1	6	6.0	6	0
CLEVELAND	296	3203	10.8	65	13
OPPONENTS	309	3531	11.4	78	26

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
McCoy	222	135	1576	6	9
Delhomme	149	93	872	2	7
Wallace	101	64	694	4	2
Massaquoi	1	1	29	1	0
Cribbs	3	2	19	0	0
Hillis	2	1	13	0	0
CLEVELAND	478	296	3203	13	18
OPPONENTS	507	309	3709	26	19

SACKS CLEVELAND 29, OPPONENTS 36

Benard 7.5, Fujita 3.5, Roth 3.5, Coleman 2.5, Elam 2, Gocong 2, Rogers 2, Rubin 2, Adams 1, Haden 1, Trusnik 1, Bowens 0.5, Robinson 0.5

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Brown, Jarrett	QB	6-3	224	9/21/87	0	West Virginia
17	Delhomme, Jake	QB	6-2	215	1/10/75	13	Louisiana-Lafayette
12	McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	216	9/5/86	2	Texas
6	Wallace, Seneca	QB	5-11	205	8/6/80	9	Iowa State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Braxton, Branndon	T	6-6	312	12/10/85	1	Oklahoma
66	Lauvao, Shawn	G	6-2	315	10/26/87	2	Arizona State
55	Mack, Alex	C	6-4	311	11/19/85	3	California
75	Murray, Pat	G	6-3	316	10/31/84	1	Truman State
79	Pashos, Tony	T	6-6	325	8/3/80	9	Illinois
	Pinkston, Jason	T	6-3	317	9/5/87	0	Pittsburgh
64	Pontbriand, Ryan	C	6-2	255	10/1/79	9	Rice
65	Steinbach, Eric	G	6-6	295	4/4/80	9	Iowa
73	Thomas, Joe	T	6-6	312	12/4/84	5	Wisconsin
	Trautwein, Phil	T	6-6	308	4/15/86	2	Florida
60	Vallos, Steve	T	6-3	312	12/28/83	5	Wake Forest
77	Womack, Floyd	G	6-4	328	11/15/78	11	Mississippi State
68	Yates, Billy	G	6-2	305	4/15/80	8	Texas A&M

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
22	Bell, Mike	RB	6-0	225	4/23/83	6	Arizona
	Clutts, Tyler	RB	6-2	245	11/9/84	1	Fresno State
31	Hardesty, Montario	RB	6-0	225	2/1/87	2	Tennessee
40	Hillis, Peyton	RB	6-1	240	1/21/86	4	Arkansas
	Marecic, Owen	RB	6-0	248	10/4/88	0	Stanford
	Porter, Quinn	RB	6-0	205	2/2/86	1	Stillman
47	Vickers, Lawrence	RB	6-0	250	5/8/83	6	Colorado

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Cameron, Jordan	TE	6-5	254	8/7/88	0	USC
16	Cribbs, Josh	WR	6-1	215	6/9/83	7	Kent State
	DeVree, Tyson	TE	6-6	245	11/12/84	2	Colorado
88	Estandia, Greg	TE	6-8	266	11/18/82	5	UNLV
86	Haggerty, Johnathan	WR	6-1	195	2/5/88	2	SW Oklahoma State
	Little, Greg	WR	6-2	231	5/30/89	0	North Carolina
11	Massaquoi, Mohamed	WR	6-2	207	11/24/86	3	Georgia
18	Mitchell, Carlton	WR	6-2	215	4/6/88	2	South Florida
89	Moore, Evan	WR	6-6	247	1/3/85	3	Stanford
10	Norwood, Jordan	WR	5-11	179	9/29/86	1	Penn State
80	Robiskie, Brian	WR	6-3	209	12/3/87	3	Ohio State
81	Smith, Alex	TE	6-4	258	5/22/82	7	Stanford
83	Stuckey, Chansi	WR	6-0	196	10/4/83	5	Clemson
82	Watson, Benjamin	TE	6-3	255	12/18/80	8	Georgia
88	Williams, Demetrius	WR	6-2	202	3/28/83	6	Oregon
	Windsor, Rod	WR	6-2	205	4/24/85	1	Western New Mexico

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
62	Adams, Titus	DT	6-4	305	1/28/83	2	Nebraska
94	Ivey, Travis	DT	6-4	325	12/22/86	1	Maryland
97	Mitchell, Jayme	DE	6-6	285	3/15/84	6	Ole Miss
	Paxson, Scott	DT	6-4	292	2/3/83	1	Penn State
74	Quaye, Ko	DT	6-1	307	5/11/87	1	South Dakota
67	Robinson, Derreck	DE	6-4	295	3/3/82	5	Iowa
53	Roth, Matt	DE	6-4	275	10/14/82	7	Iowa
71	Rubin, Ahtyba	DT	6-2	330	7/25/86	4	Iowa State
70	Sanford, Brian	DE	6-2	280	9/12/87	2	Temple
91	Schaefering, Brian	DT	6-2	295	8/20/83	2	Lindenwood
	Sheard, Jabaal	DE	6-3	264	5/10/89	0	Pittsburgh
98	Smith, Robaire	DE	6-5	310	11/15/77	12	Michigan State
	Taylor, Phil	DT	6-4	355	4/7/88	0	Baylor

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20	Adams, Mike	S	5-11	200	3/24/81	8	Delaware
24	Brown, Sheldon	CB	5-10	200	3/19/79	10	South Carolina
26	Elam, Abram	S	6-0	207	10/15/81	6	Kent State
	English, Auston	LB	6-3	250	3/10/87	0	Oklahoma
36	Francies, Coye	CB	6-0	185	11/15/86	2	San Jose State
23	Haden, Joe	CB	5-11	193	4/14/89	2	Florida
	Hagg, Eric	S	6-1	206	9/15/89	0	Nebraska
28	Piscitelli, Sabby	S	6-3	224	8/24/83	5	Oregon State
	Robinson, Ramzee	CB	5-10	190	2/20/84	3	Alabama
	Skrine, Buster	CB	5-10	186	4/26/89	0	Chattanooga
39	Smith, DeAngelo	CB	5-11	200	7/17/86	2	Cincinnati
27	Sorensen, Nick	S	6-3	210	7/31/78	11	Virginia Tech
41	Ventrone, Raymond	S	5-10	200	10/21/82	6	Villanova
43	Ward, T.J.	S	5-10	211	12/12/86	2	Oregon
21	Wright, Eric	CB	5-10	190	7/24/85	5	UNLV

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57	Alexander, Eric	LB	6-2	240	2/8/82	7	LSU
58	Benard, Marcus	LB	6-2	256	7/26/85	3	Jackson State
59	Brown, Titus	LB	6-3	250	3/27/86	2	Mississippi State
54	Costanzo, Blake	LB	6-1	235	4/14/84	5	Lafayette
99	Fujita, Scott	LB	6-5	250	4/28/79	10	California
51	Gocong, Chris	LB	6-2	263	11/16/83	6	Cal Poly
52	Jackson, D'Qwell	LB	6-0	240	9/26/83	6	Maryland
56	Maiava, Kaluka	LB	6-0	229	12/27/86	3	USC
95	Octavien, Steve	LB	6-0	254	11/25/84	2	Nebraska
93	Trusnik, Jason	LB	6-4	250	6/6/84	5	Ohio Northern

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4	Dawson, Phil	K	5-11	200	1/23/75	13	Texas
2	Hodges, Reggie	P	6-0	220	1/26/82	5	Ball State

PAT SHURMUR, Head coach

Dick Jauron, defensive coordinator; **Chris Tabor,** special teams coordinator; **Dwaine Board,** defensive line; **Gary Brown,** running backs; **Bill Davis,** linebackers; **Steve Hagen,** tight ends; **Jerome Henderson,** defensive backs; **Shawn Mennenga,** asst. special teams; **Mark Whipple,** quarterbacks; **George Warhop,** offensive line; **Mike Wilson,** wide receivers

OFFSEASON MOVES

ADDITIONS

QB Jarrett Brown (FA), **DT Scott Paxson** (FA), **CB Ramzee Robinson** (FA)

SUBTRACTIONS

DT Shaun Rogers (FA/Saints), **LB Eric Barton** (FA), **LB David Bowens** (FA), **DE Kenyon Coleman** (FA), **TE Robert Royal** (FA), **OT John St. Clair** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

PAT SHURMUR

Mike Holmgren handpicked a head coach who shares his belief in the West Coast passing system. That means a steady diet of timing routes honed to nurture the run after catch. Shurmur has the element of surprise on his side, since he is a first-year head coach doubling as his own play-caller.

sick feeling when Heckert picked T.J. Ward higher than analysts had him rated. By the end of 2010, though, Ward's fierce style and steady production vindicated him as worth the 38th overall pick. Ward must keep improving to become a true impact safety.

Joe Haden, the seventh overall pick last year, quickly brought a Pro Bowler's mentality to the cornerback spot. He is full of talent and confidence and has a zest for making plays.

Eric Wright came into his own in 2009 but fell apart early last year, getting beat on plays that assaulted his confidence. Ideally, Wright would return to form, enabling Sheldon Brown to ease into the No. 3 cornerback role.

Safety Abram Elam is coming off a career year in which he showed leadership and playmaking qualities. Mike Adams will again be used to address suspect depth at cornerback and safety. **GRADE: B-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Cribbs' 2010 numbers as a return specialist were miserable by his standards, but he is still dangerous enough that teams kick away from him. Kicker Phil Dawson remains strong and steady at age 36. The Browns slapped the franchise tag on him for a reason.

Reggie Hodges had bounced around for five years before becoming one of the league's top punters in 2010. His net (39.0) in 2010 was 5.5 yards better than his career average, and Hodges looks to have finally found a home. Ryan Pontbriand is a two-time Pro Bowl long snapper. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

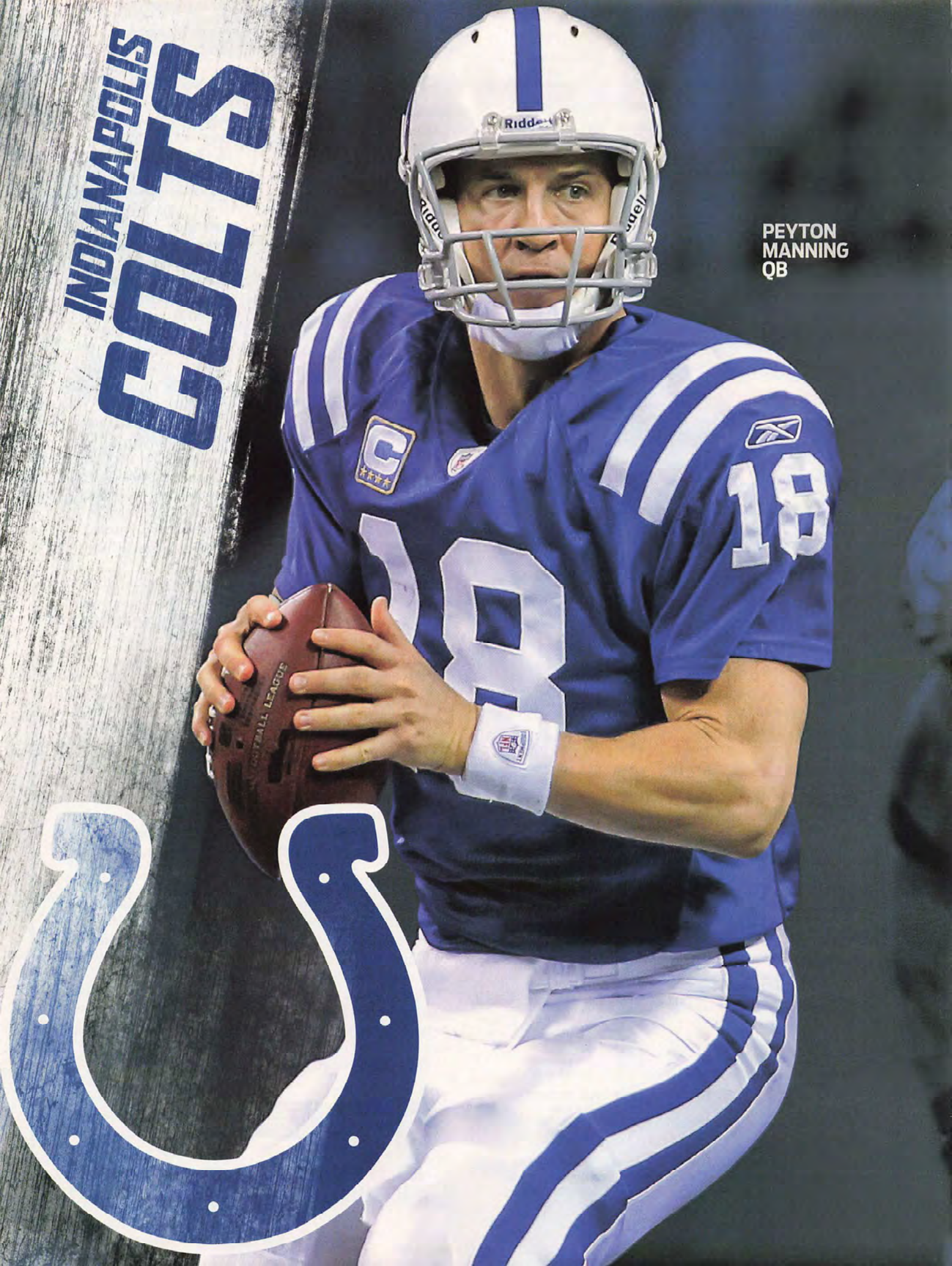
Fans will have a low tolerance for a third straight middling season. Holmgren understands that this campaign should be geared toward a run at .500. However, it's asking a lot to make a big jump under a quarterback who lasted until late in the third round last year.

Jauron should be able to improve the defensive result as long as Heckert keeps feeding him players, but he will have to tap into every bit of his experience to successfully change to a 4-3 given the lack of depth.

The reasonable hope is for the "Three Amigos" of Holmgren, Heckert and Shurmur to forge a solid foundation, while trying to get the customers and players to believe something is happening—even if the record is bad again.

72 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT **DOWN**


INDIANAPOLIS
COLTS
PEYTON
MANNING
QB

Colts hope to ride their way to home Super Bowl appearance

By Mike Chappell *Indianapolis Star*

One thing is certain when owner Jim Irsay considers the uncertain nature of the NFL landscape.

His Indianapolis Colts will be ready. For whatever.

"Teams that handle uncertainty the best will be in the best shape," Irsay says. "When we played the strike games (in 1987), we had a good team. We were organized. You want to do whatever it takes to be prepared."

When Irsay allows himself to look ahead, he sees a "special season," one full of possibilities.

A veteran roster should return, one that could be bolstered by nine players who have combined for 34 Pro Bowls. That buoys optimism for a 10th consecutive playoff berth (which would set a league record) and a legitimate run for a third Super Bowl appearance in six seasons. The latest would be historic. Super Bowl 46 is Feb. 5, 2012 at Lucas Oil Stadium. No team has played in a Super Bowl on its home field.

"Having the Super Bowl, it's an exciting year for us," Irsay says. "We're excited about the type of team we can return healthy."

OFFENSE

Clyde Christensen's second season as coordinator will mirror his first, but hopefully without the injuries. Everything will revolve around the Peyton Manning-led passing game, but the Colts need a stronger commitment to the running game. Injuries and inadequate run blocking led Manning to deliver 679 passes—the second most in NFL history—and running backs accounting for 393 rushes, the fourth fewest in the league.

Quarterbacks ▸ The whispers last season that Manning was in a heated battle with Father Time grew in intensity and had a semblance of reality. After all, he was 34 and entering his 13th season. But Manning paid no attention. Asked to carry an inordinate load as the running game faltered and his protection was uncharacteristically leaky, the league's only four-time MVP passed for a career-best 4,700 yards.

So, what to expect in Manning's 14th season? More of the same. He remains a driven quarterback who shows no signs of wilting under the pressure of carrying a franchise on his shoulders. No quarterback is given as much freedom before the snap, and few QBs produce at such a high level.

Curtis Painter heads into his third season as Manning's backup, but has had few opportunities to play and struggled mightily in unfavorable conditions.

GRADE: A+

Running backs ▸ It's time for Donald Brown to fulfill the expectations that accompanied him into the league as a 2009 first-round draft pick. He's shown flashes—a 129-yard outing against Jacksonville last season—but too often has been a nonfactor

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 6-2

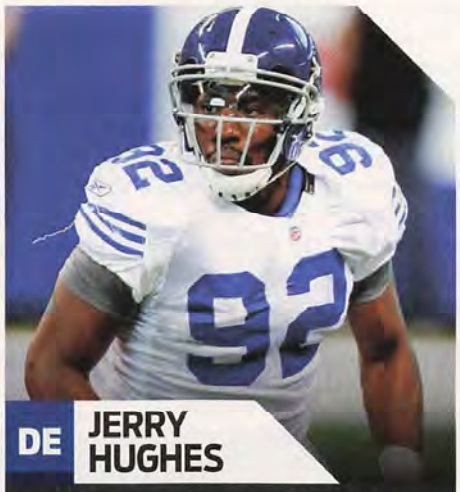
- **ONLINE:** www.colts.com
- **STADIUM:** Lucas Oil Stadium

Capacity: 63,000 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 317-299-4946

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Anderson (Ind.) University; 765-641-4479

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



DE JERRY HUGHES

Hughes must emerge after being a nonfactor as a rookie. The 31st overall pick in the 2010 draft had just six tackles and zero sacks while playing sparingly in 12 games. He has decent size (6-2, 255 pounds) and the necessary speed to be an effective outside pass rusher.

COLTS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Bobby Boyd *(1960-68)*	57	2	Don Shinnick *(1957-69)*	37	3	Eugene Daniel *(1984-96)*	35

AFC SOUTH **1**

SN PICK **12-4**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Peyton Manning Curtis Painter
RB	Joseph Addai Donald Brown
LT	Anthony Castonzo Jeff Linkenbach
LG	Charlie Johnson Kyle DeVan
C	Jeff Saturday Mike Pollak
RG	Mike Pollak Jacques McClendon
RT	Ryan Diem Ben Ijalana
TE	Dallas Clark Jacob Tamme
TE	Brody Eldridge Gijon Robinson
WR	Reggie Wayne Austin Collie
WR	Pierre Garçon Anthony Gonzalez
DEFENSE	
DE	Robert Mathis Eric Foster
DT	Dan Muir Ricardo Mathews
DT	Fili Moala Drake Nevis
DE	Dwight Freeney Jerry Hughes
SLB	Pat Angerer Philip Wheeler
MLB	Gary Brackett Pat Angerer
WLB	Clint Session Kavell Conner
LCB	Kelvin Hayden Justin Tryon
SS	Melvin Bullitt Mike Newton
FS	Antoine Bethea David Caldwell
RCB	Jerraud Powers Jacob Lacey
SPECIALISTS	
K	Adam Vinatieri
P	Pat McAfee
KR	Devin Moore
PR	Blair White
LS	Justin Snow

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE; FACING PAGE: ICON SMI

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ HOUSTON	SEPT. 11 1:00	W L
WEEK 2	CLEVELAND	SEPT. 18 1:00	W L
WEEK 3	PITTSBURGH	SEPT. 25 8:20	W L
WEEK 4	@ TAMPA BAY	OCT. 3 8:30	W L
WEEK 5	KANSAS CITY	OCT. 9 1:00	W L
WEEK 6	@ CINCINNATI	OCT. 16 1:00	W L
WEEK 7	@ NEW ORLEANS	OCT. 23 8:20	W L
WEEK 8	@ TENNESSEE	OCT. 30 1:00	W L
WEEK 9	ATLANTA	NOV. 6 1:00	W L
WEEK 10	JACKSONVILLE	NOV. 13 1:00	W L
WEEK 11	OPEN		
WEEK 12	CAROLINA	NOV. 27 1:00	W L
WEEK 13	@ NEW ENGLAND	DEC. 4 8:20	W L
WEEK 14	@BALTIMORE	DEC. 11 1:00	W L
WEEK 15	TENNESSEE	DEC. 18 1:00	W L
WEEK 16	HOUSTON	DEC. 22 8:20	W L
WEEK 17	@ JACKSONVILLE	JAN. 1 1:00	W L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

or slowed by injuries.

The return of veteran restricted free agent Joseph Addai would also be a huge boost. Despite missing eight games with a shoulder injury last season, the team's 2006 first-round pick provided a spark when healthy. He's a quick-cut back who averaged 4.3 yards per attempt and had four touchdowns a year ago.

The team addressed its short-yardage problems by taking 225-pound Delone Carter in the fourth round of the draft. Depth could come from Javarris James, the cousin of franchise career rushing leader Edgerrin James, who had a team-high six rushing touchdowns as a rookie. **GRADE: C-**

Receivers ▸ Few teams can match the depth of Manning's options in the passing game—especially in 2010—when injuries forced the team to reach deep down the depth chart. If everyone is able to recover from the variety of afflictions that limited their availability and productivity last season, the passing game should remain one of the league's most potent.

Reggie Wayne turns 33 in November, but is still one of the best at his position. He's an outstanding route-runner and possesses great hands. Wayne has had at least 1,000 yards and averaged 92 receptions over the past seven seasons. Pierre Garçon brings deep speed and game-breaking abilities, but is still plagued by too many dropped passes.

The most attention will focus on Austin Collie (concussions), Anthony Gonzalez (knee) and tight end Dallas Clark (wrist), who missed a combined 32 games last season. When that trio is on the field, they're game-changers.

The silver lining from last season's injuries was the emergence of backup tight end Jacob Tamme (67 receptions, 631 yards, 4 TDs) and rookie receiver Blair White (36, 355, 5). **GRADE: A**

Offensive line ▸ The retooling of a declining area began in earnest with the addition of two tackles—2011 first-round pick Anthony Castonzo and second-rounder Ben Ijalana. Castonzo is viewed as the long-term answer to protecting Manning's blind side and should start immediately. Ijalana's versatility makes him an option to play guard or challenge veteran Ryan Diem for the right-tackle spot.

The versatility provided by the influx of young talent is significant. Charlie Johnson, the incumbent left tackle, has been serviceable at that spot, but can move inside to guard if he's re-signed. If Diem bounces back from a subpar season, he stays at right tackle and Ijalana can strengthen the interior.

5-YEAR RECORD: 61-19

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Colts)

"Everything starts with the leadership from the veteran guys. I know this has gotten plenty of ink over the years, but if you look at those guys, that type of continuity is so important. The continuity comes from being successful, but it breeds more success when you have guys playing next to each other or sitting next to each other in meetings for long periods of time. That relationship is unlike anything you can imagine anywhere. ...

"The leaders when I stepped into that team as a rookie—Ryan Diem, Tarik Glenn, Jeff Saturday, Dallas Clark, Gary Brackett, Peyton Manning, Marvin (Harrison), Reggie (Wayne)—it's no accident these guys all have a common thread of being leaders and putting the team first. The culture there in the locker room and the meeting rooms is driven by the leaders on the team. They've been around and they care. ...

"Boy, if you give me a week, maybe I could come up with (a weakness). But I'm telling you, it's a special club, man. ..."

FANTASY SPIN

Concussions were all that could slow down Austin Collie last season. While owners should be excited about his potential, know that one more shot to the head could give Blair White a starting gig.

BUY

Peyton Manning

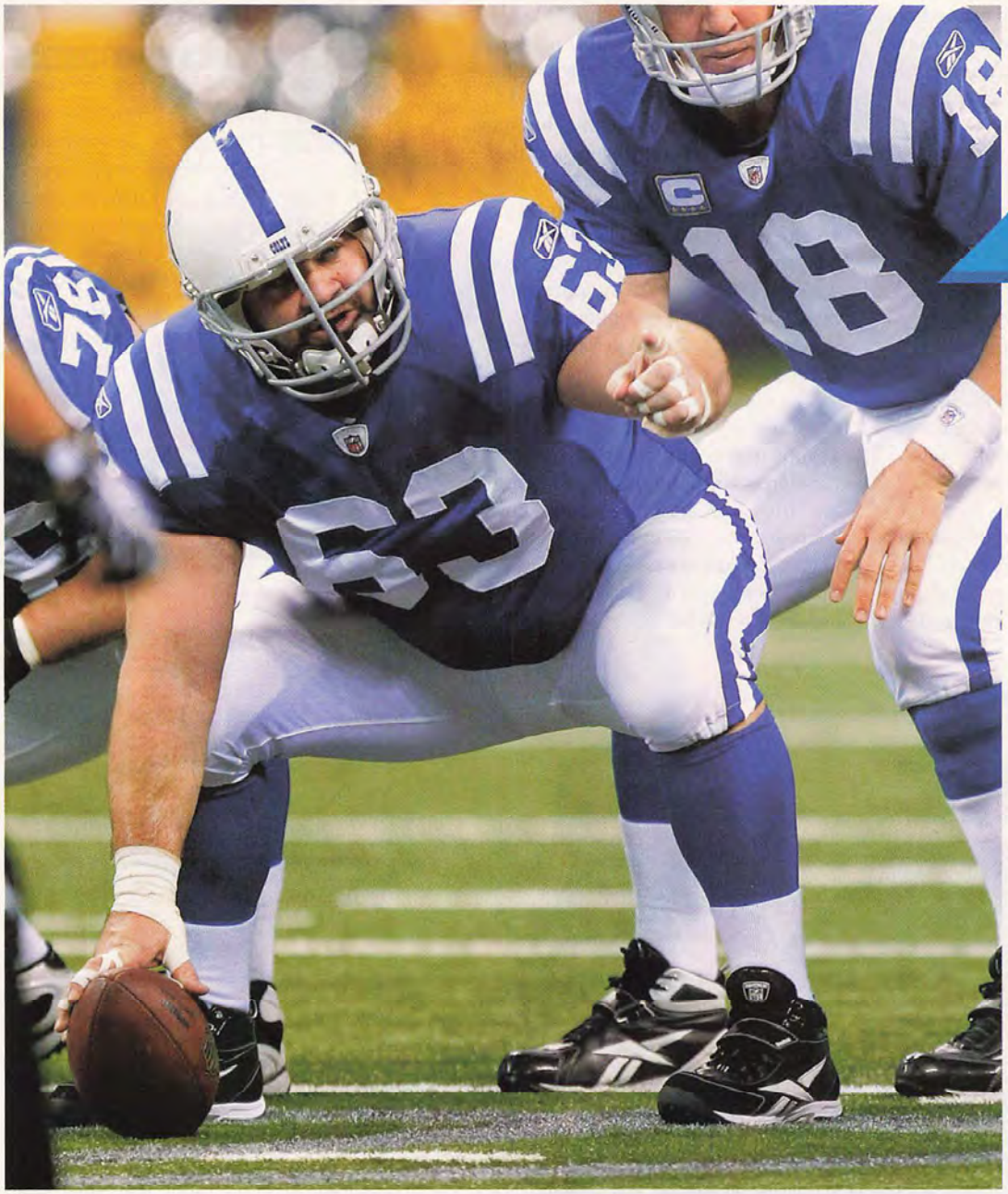
SELL

Donald Brown

SLEEPER

Pierre Garçon

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY

THE BOOK ON ...

JEFF SATURDAY

"The guy's successful because he wants it. That's plain and simple. He wants it more than most guys. Those are the guys who seem to garner the most respect, at least from offensive linemen who might not be the physical freaks, but guys like (Chiefs center) Casey Wiegmann, undrafted out of Iowa who (has) played 15 years in the NFL. The guy hasn't missed a snap in the last 10 years. That's Jeff. He's the kind of guy who, if he misses a practice or a play or possibly a game, there's no doubt in my mind he's going to do everything possible to get back. ...

"Like I said, he wants it. A lot of guys want to be in the league for a lot of other reasons. That's fair, but one thing about Jeff is he just wants it. He's a competitive guy. I hate to use the cliché, but if you were in a bar fight or if you went to a battle of some sort, you want that dude ... ."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	380.8	4
Rushing	92.7	29
PASSING	288.1	1
Scoring	435	4
Punt Returns	6.9	28
Kick Returns	19.6	29
RED ZONE TD %	67.9	1
Total Defense	341.6	20
Against Rush	127.0	25
Against Pass	214.6	13
Points Allowed	388	23
Interceptions	10	30t
Sacks	30	23t
Turnover Diff.	-4	19t

Depth shouldn't be a concern if Castonzo and Ijalana step in from Day 1. Perennial Pro Bowler Jeff Saturday returns for a 13th season to anchor the middle of the line. Kyle DeVan and Mike Pollak are starter-quality prospects at guard. Jeff Linkenbach, an undrafted rookie in 2010, is a viable backup at both tackle positions. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

Indianapolis is getting away from the traditional Tampa 2, using more man-to-man coverage under coordinator Larry Coyer. He's more aggressive and blitz-conscious than his predecessor, but injuries in the secondary forced him to assume a more conservative approach as 2010 unfolded.

If the defense maintains its health, look for Coyer to make more liberal use of his linebackers and defensive backs for blitzing in nickel situations.

Defensive line ➤ The strength remains on the edge with Pro Bowl ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis. They hold their own against the run, but their forté is breaking down the protection and forcing the quarterback to speed up his game or pay the price. Since becoming a tandem in 2003, they've combined for 155 sacks and 68 forced fumbles.

The outside portion of the pass rush will be bolstered if Jerry Hughes, the team's 2010 first-round draft pick, improves in his second season. He was never a factor as a rookie, finishing with just six tackles and zero sacks in limited participation.

The interior remains an area of concern. Fili Moala, a 2009 second-round pick, emerged last season and should remain a defensive line mainstay. Third-round draft pick Drake Nevis is an active big man (294 pounds) who should offer another penetrating presence. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ➤ Defensive captain Gary Brackett returns for a ninth season to solidify this unit, but the team's tendency to inject young talent into the position is unchanged.

Look for increased productivity from two of the 2010 draft class: Pat Angerer and Kavell Conner. Injuries forced each to carry a heavier load than expected as rookies.

Experience should come from Brackett (who has started 84 games over the past six seasons), Clint Session and Philip Wheeler. Session, a restricted free agent, is the hardest hitter of the group and should be poised for a big return after missing 11 games in 2010 with elbow and forearm injuries. Wheeler has started 13 games the past two seasons, but has yet to emerge as a difference-maker. **GRADE: C+**

Secondary ➤ There's nothing wrong with this group that some sustained health won't remedy. Last year's projected starting foursome never lined up for one play, and injury-prone safety Bob Sanders was released during the offseason.

The cornerbacks have the potential to be one of the franchise's best groups in recent memory. Kelvin Hayden is solid; he returned both of his 2010 interceptions for touchdowns. Also, Jerraud Powers is one of the league's rising stars. Powers has outstanding instincts and breaks quickly on the ball.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	24-34	Houston Texans
09/19	W	38-14	New York Giants
09/26	W	27-13	Denver Broncos
10/03	L	28-31	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/10	W	19-9	Kansas City Chiefs
10/17	W	27-24	Washington Redskins
11/01	W	30-17	Houston Texans
11/07	L	24-26	Philadelphia Eagles
11/14	W	23-17	Cincinnati Bengals
11/21	L	28-31	New England Patriots
11/28	L	14-36	San Diego Chargers
12/05	L	35-38	Dallas Cowboys
12/09	W	30-28	Tennessee Titans
12/19	W	34-24	Jacksonville Jaguars
12/26	W	31-26	Oakland Raiders
01/02	W	23-20	Tennessee Titans

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Brown	129	497	3.9	49	2
Addai	116	795	4.3	46	4
Hart	43	185	4.3	35	1
Rhodes	37	172	4.6	15	0
J. James	46	112	2.4	11	6
Manning	18	18	1.0	27	0
Garçon	2	6	3.0	11	0
Moore	2	-2	-1.0	1	0
INDIANAPOLIS	**393**	**1483**	**3.8**	**49**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**445**	**2032**	**4.6**	**62**	**14**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Wayne	111	1355	12.2	50	6
Garçon	67	784	11.7	57	6
Tamme	67	631	9.4	30	4
Collie	58	649	11.2	73	8
Clark	37	347	9.4	50	3
White	36	355	9.9	33	5
Brown	20	205	10.3	25	0
Addai	19	124	6.5	15	0
J. James	9	63	7.0	11	0
Hart	6	25	4.2	10	0
B. James	6	40	6.7	17	0
Eldridge	5	39	7.8	10	0
Gonzalez	5	67	13.4	34	0
Robinson	3	12	4.0	6	1
Rhodes	1	4	4.0	4	0
INDIANAPOLIS	**450**	**4700**	**10.4**	**73**	**33**
OPPONENTS	**356**	**3433**	**936**	**61**	**22**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Manning	679	450	4700	33	17
INDIANAPOLIS	**679**	**450**	**4700**	**33**	**17**
OPPONENTS	**535**	**365**	**3627**	**22**	**10**

SACKS INDIANAPOLIS 29, OPPONENTS 16

Mathis 11, Freeney 10, Foster 3.5, Angerer 1, Hagler 1, Session 1, Bethea 0.5, Brackett 0.5, Johnson 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

The Colts had to be overjoyed when offensive tackle **Anthony Castonzo** slid to them at No. 22 overall. Castonzo is on par with fellow rookie tackle Tyron Smith, who went No. 9 overall to the Cowboys. Castonzo will provide Peyton Manning with the blindside protection he has been missing for the last five seasons and should allow the Colts' offense to take big steps in 2011.

While guard **Ben Ijalana** wasn't as highly regarded as Castonzo, he was a good value in the second round because his size and athleticism are hard to find. Round 3 rewarded the Colts with defensive tackle **Drake Nevis**, perhaps the steal of the draft. He's only 6-1, but is an explosive, athletic and powerful tackle who should challenge other starters as a rookie.

In the sixth round the Colts scored a huge hit with cornerback **Chris Rucker**, as he would have likely been a second-round pick if he didn't have any off-field issues. If Rucker stays out of trouble he will become a good starter in the secondary.

Castonzo

GRADE

A | B | C | D | F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	22	Anthony Castonzo	OT	6-7	311	Boston College
2	17	Ben Ijalana	G	6-4	317	Villanova
3	23	Drake Nevis	DT	6-1	294	LSU
4	22	Delone Carter	RB	5-9	224	Syracuse
6	23	Chris Rucker	CB	6-2	200	Michigan State

MICHAEL HICKEY / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
18	Manning, Peyton	QB	6-5	230	3/24/76	14	Tennessee
7	Painter, Curtis	QB	6-4	230	6/24/85	3	Purdue

OFFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Bender, Casey	T	6-6	295	12/22/86	0	South Dakota State
	Castonzo, Anthony	T	6-7	311	8/9/88	0	Boston College
66	DeVan, Kyle	G	6-2	306	2/10/85	3	Oregon State
71	Diem, Ryan	T	6-6	320	7/1/79	11	Northern Illinois
	Ijalana, Ben	T	6-4	317	8/6/89	0	Villanova
74	Johnson, Charlie	T	6-4	305	5/2/84	6	Oklahoma State
72	Linkenbach, Jeffrey	T	6-4	311	6/9/87	2	Cincinnati
65	McClendon, Jacques	G	6-2	324	12/10/87	2	Tennessee
78	Pollak, Mike	G	6-3	301	2/16/85	4	Arizona State
76	Reitz, Joe	T	6-7	320	8/24/85	2	Western Michigan
61	Richard, Jamey	C	6-5	295	10/9/84	4	Buffalo
63	Saturday, Jeff	C	6-2	295	6/18/75	13	North Carolina
48	Snow, Justin	LS	6-3	240	12/21/76	12	Baylor
	Tepper, Mike	T	6-6	324	12/11/85	0	California
73	Thomas, Jaimie	G	6-4	330	8/24/86	2	Maryland
75	Toudouze, Michael	T	6-6	303	4/27/83	2	TCU
	Williams, James	T	6-5	295	7/3/88	1	Harvard

RUNNING BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
29	Addai, Joseph	RB	5-11	214	5/3/83	6	LSU
31	Brown, Donald	RB	5-10	210	4/11/87	3	Connecticut
	Carter, Delone	RB	5-9	225	6/22/87	0	Syracuse
32	Hart, Mike	RB	5-9	206	4/9/86	4	Michigan
42	James, Javarris	RB	6-0	215	9/18/87	2	Miami (Fla.)
	Moore, Devin	RB	5-10	191	11/6/85	2	Wyoming
30	Rhodes, Dominic	RB	5-9	203	1/17/79	9	Midwestern State

RECEIVERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
83	Brooks, Chris	WR	6-2	215	2/5/87	1	Nebraska
44	Clark, Dallas	TE	6-3	252	6/12/79	9	Iowa
17	Collie, Austin	WR	6-0	200	11/11/85	3	BYU
81	Eldridge, Brody	TE	6-5	265	3/31/87	2	Oklahoma
85	Garçon, Pierre	WR	6-0	210	8/8/86	4	Mount Union
11	Gonzalez, Anthony	WR	6-0	193	9/18/84	5	Ohio State
	Heckendorf, Kole	WR	6-2	191	11/20/85	1	North Dakota State
	Myers, Rob	TE	6-4	239	4/9/86	1	Utah State
47	Robinson, Gijon	TE	6-1	255	10/12/84	4	Missouri Western State
	Santi, Tom	TE	6-3	250	11/22/85	4	Virginia
10	Smith, Taj	WR	6-0	192	9/30/83	1	Syracuse
84	Tamme, Jacob	TE	6-3	236	3/15/85	4	Kentucky
87	Wayne, Reggie	WR	6-0	198	11/1/78	11	Miami (Fla.)
15	White, Blair	WR	6-2	205	2/20/87	2	Michigan State

DEFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
97	Chick, John	DE	6-4	250	11/20/82	1	Utah State
96	Dawson, Keyunta	DE	6-3	254	9/13/85	5	Texas Tech
68	Foster, Eric	DT	6-2	265	4/5/85	4	Rutgers
93	Freeney, Dwight	DE	6-1	268	2/19/80	10	Syracuse
69	Gill, John	DT	6-3	302	10/28/86	1	Northwestern
92	Hughes, Jerry	DE	6-2	255	8/13/88	2	TCU
99	Johnson, Antonio	DT	6-3	310	12/8/84	5	Mississippi State
91	Mathews, Ricardo	DT	6-2	294	7/30/87	2	Cincinnati
98	Mathis, Robert	DE	6-2	245	2/26/81	9	Alabama A&M
95	Moala, Fili	DT	6-4	303	6/23/85	3	USC
90	Muir, Daniel	DT	6-2	312	9/12/83	5	Kent State
	Nevis, Drake	DT	6-1	294	5/8/89	0	LSU
	Pressley, DeMario	DT	6-3	301	11/3/85	3	N.C. State

DEFENSIVE BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
23	Afalava, Al	S	5-11	212	1/20/87	3	Oregon State
41	Bethea, Antoine	S	5-11	203	7/7/84	6	Howard
39	Brown, Cornelius	CB	5-11	198	2/26/88	2	UTEP
	Bullitt, Melvin	S	6-1	201	11/13/84	5	Texas A&M
	Caldwell, David	S	5-11	212	5/19/87	2	William & Mary
43	Francisco, Aaron	S	6-2	207	7/5/83	7	BYU
35	Hamlin, Ken	S	6-2	208	1/20/81	9	Arkansas
26	Hayden, Kelvin	CB	6-0	195	7/23/83	7	Illinois
	Hemby, Jordan	CB	5-11	190	7/21/87	2	North Carolina
	Johnson, Terrence	CB	5-9	190	7/5/86	1	California (Pa.)
37	King, Brandon	CB	5-10	194	1/28/87	2	Purdue
27	Lacey, Jacob	CB	5-10	177	5/28/87	3	Oklahoma State
38	Newton, Mike	CB	5-10	197	11/11/87	2	Buffalo
25	Powers, Jerraud	CB	5-10	192	7/19/87	3	Auburn
37	Richardson, Mike	CB	5-11	190	2/18/84	4	Notre Dame
	Rucker, Chris	CB	6-2	200	10/12/88	0	Michigan State
	Silva, Jamie	S	5-11	204	12/14/84	4	Boston College
	Thomas, Kevin	CB	6-0	192	9/20/86	2	USC
20	Tryon, Justin	CB	5-9	185	5/29/84	4	Arizona State
49	Vaughn, Chip	S	6-2	221	10/26/85	3	Wake Forest

LINEBACKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
51	Angerer, Pat	LB	6-0	235	1/31/87	2	Iowa
58	Brackett, Gary	LB	5-11	235	5/23/80	9	Rutgers
53	Conner, Kavell	LB	6-0	242	2/23/87	2	Clemson
52	Glenn, Cody	LB	6-0	240	10/6/86	3	Nebraska
56	Hagler, Tyjuan	LB	6-0	236	12/3/81	6	Cincinnati
55	Session, Clint	LB	6-0	235	9/22/84	5	Pittsburgh
54	Triplett, Nate	LB	6-3	247	3/15/87	1	Minnesota
50	Wheeler, Philip	LB	6-2	240	12/12/84	4	Georgia Tech

KICKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
1	McAfee, Pat	P	6-1	220	5/2/87	3	West Virginia
	Swenson, Brett	K	5-8	173	2/10/88	2	Michigan State
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	202	12/28/72	16	South Dakota State

JIM CALDWELL, Head coach

Clyde Christensen, offensive coordinator; **Larry Coyer,** defensive coordinator; **Ray Rychleski,** special teams coordinator; **Pete Metzelaars,** offensive line; **Mike Murphy,** linebackers; **Ron Prince,** assistant offensive line; **Frank Reich,** wide receivers; **John Teerlinck,** defensive line; **Ricky Thomas,** tight end; **Ron Turner,** quarterbacks; **David Walker,** running backs; **Alan Williams,** defensive backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

S Bob Sanders (FA/Chargers)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JIM CALDWELL

Caldwell drew criticism last season for his handling of late-game situations that contributed to losses at Jacksonville and against the Jets in the playoffs. He'll occasionally take a risk because of the presence of Peyton Manning and a slew of playmakers, but Caldwell isn't a riverboat gambler by any means.

Justin Tryon, acquired in a trade last September, emerged as a legitimate No. 3 corner, which should push Jacob Lacey, a 17-game starter in his first two seasons, into the No. 4 slot. The wild card of the group is Kevin Thomas, a 2010 third-round pick who missed his rookie season with a knee injury.

Antoine Bethea, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, and Melvin Bullitt, the frequent replacement for Sanders, form a solid safety tandem. Bethea is the complete package—reliable in coverage (12 career INTs) and a hitter in run support. Experienced depth, though, is lacking.

While Indianapolis' secondary has promise, the group must provide more big plays. The Colts had only 10 interceptions last season, tied for the second fewest in the league. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Adam Vinatieri and Pat McAfee, coupled with the NFL's tweaking of the kickoff rule, give the Colts a unit that should hold its own in 2011.

Vinatieri, 38, is coming off of one of the best seasons of his 16-year career. He missed only two of 28 field-goal attempts during the regular season, and then hit 47-, 32- and 50-yarders in the playoff loss to the New York Jets.

McAfee's effectiveness as a punter dipped last season—he ranked No. 28 in net average (35.4)—but he compensated on kickoffs. He was tied for ninth in the league with 16 touchbacks and ranked second by driving 60.4 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone.

Devin Moore was decisive and showed a nice burst on kickoffs before suffering a season-ending shoulder injury in the fourth game of 2010, while White should be serviceable on punt returns. The long-snapping chores are in the capable hands of 12-year veteran Justin Snow. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The Manning Era enters its 14th season, which means the Colts will be relevant for another year. Management continues to make certain his supporting cast is solid, which ensures the continuation of an offensively-driven playoff contender.

While last season was sabotaged by injuries to key personnel, all signs point toward Clark, Gonzalez, Collie, Hayden, Powers, Bullitt and others returning at full strength—which bodes well for one of the league's premier franchises.

90
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

2

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK **8-8**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Matt Schaub Matt Leinart
FB	Vonta Leach James Casey
RB	Arian Foster Derrick Ward
LT	Duane Brown Rashad Butler
LG	Wade Smith Shelley Smith
C	Chris Myers Mike Brisiel
RG	Antoine Caldwell Mike Brisiel
RT	Eric Winston Cole Pemberton
TE	Owen Daniels Joel Dreessen
WR	Andre Johnson Dorin Dickerson
WR	Kevin Walter Jacoby Jones
DEFENSE	
DE	Antonio Smith J.J. Watt
NT	Earl Mitchell Shaun Cody
DE	Mario Williams Tim Jamison
OLB	Brooks Reed Xavier Adibi
ILB	Brian Cushing Stanford Keglar
ILB	DeMeco Ryans Darryl Sharpton
OLB	Connor Barwin Mark Anderson
LCB	Jason Allen Brice McCain
SS	Troy Nolan Torri Williams
FS	Glover Quin Dominique Barber
RCB	Kareem Jackson Brandon Harris
SPECIALISTS	
K	Neil Rackers
P	Matt Turk
KR	Trindon Holliday
PR	Trindon Holliday
LS	Jon Weeks

Houston's offense ready to play big again, but can defense hold its own?

By John McClain *Houston Chronicle*

Last season, the Texans had a stellar offense and an awful defense. Expect more of the same from the offense this year, as almost every starter returns. However, the defense is undergoing a metamorphosis under new coordinator Wade Phillips, who is switching to a 3-4 scheme. General manager Rick Smith used the team's first five draft choices on defensive players, including the first two on end J.J. Watt and outside linebacker Brooks Reed, both of whom should be heavy contributors immediately.

Because the defense should be a work-in-progress, the offense is going to have to carry the team early. If Phillips can do with the defense what head coach Gary Kubiak has done for the offense, the Texans could be one of the most improved teams in the NFL. But if not, Kubiak could be out of a job.

OFFENSE

This is Kubiak's system, and offensive coordinator Rick Dennison (who worked with Kubiak in Denver) is in his second season running it. The Texans' system relies on the zone running scheme and a down-field passing game offset by quarterback Matt Schaub's effective bootlegs.

With Arian Foster leading the league in rushing (4.9 yards per game) in 2010, the play-action game is among the league's most effective. The Texans ranked third in total offense, including seventh in rushing and fourth in passing.

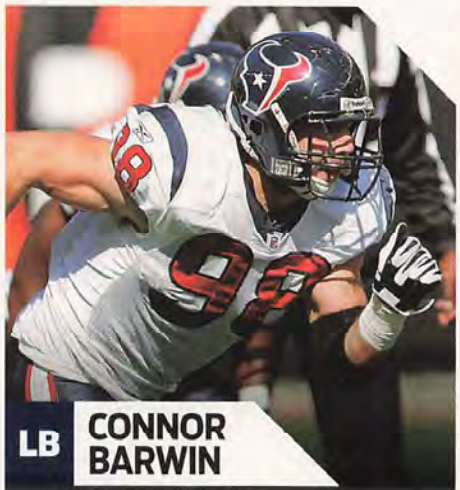
Quarterbacks ▸ The offense is in good hands with Schaub, who has started every game the last two seasons and has eclipsed 4,000 yards both times. This is Schaub's fifth season in Kubiak's bootleg system, and his decision making has improved. With the running game working so well, Schaub also has gotten better as a play-action quarterback. Sometimes he holds the ball too long waiting for a receiver to get open and gets sacked (32 times in 2010), but he doesn't get rattled. He also doesn't force balls into coverage. He's cool and confident, no matter what the situation.

Kubiak would like to re-sign Matt Leinart, who impressed the coaches in his one season on the Texans' bench. Leinart is a better second option than Dan Orlovsky, who returns for his third season as the backup. Orlovsky hasn't played well in the preseason, and the fans and media have no confidence in him if he's forced to replace Schaub.

Houston drafted North Carolina's T.J. Yates in the fifth round, and he's expected to become the No. 3 man. If Leinart returns, Orlovsky could be the odd man out. **GRADE: A-**

Running backs ▸ Going into last season, one of the priorities was to improve a running game that ranked 30th in the NFL in 2009. The Texans used a second-round

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB CONNOR BARWIN

As a backup who played in passing situations as a rookie in 2009, Barwin recorded 4.5 sacks. He suffered a broken foot in last year's opener, but is now being moved to his natural position at outside linebacker, where he should become one of Houston's best pass rushers.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 4-4

▸ **ONLINE:** www.houstontexans.com

▸ **STADIUM:** Reliant Stadium

Capacity: 71,500 **Turf:** Grass

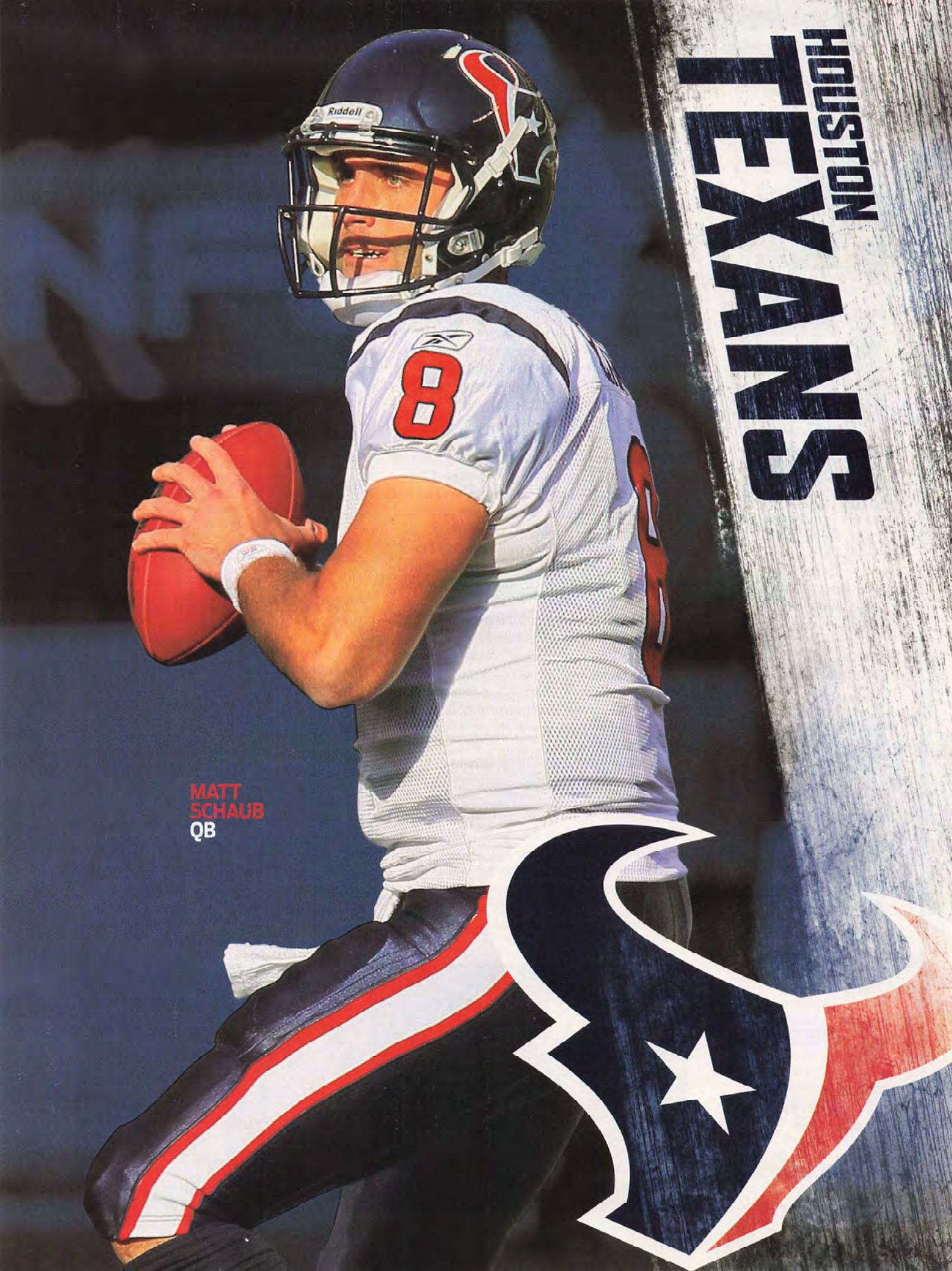
Tickets: 832-667-2002

▸ **TRAINING CAMP:** Methodist Training Center, Houston; 832-667-2000

TEXANS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Dunta Robinson *(2004-09)*	13	2t	Marcus Coleman *(2002-05)*	11	2t	Aaron Glenn *(2002-04)*	11

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE PAGE: BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN


HOUSTON
TEXANS
MATT
SCHAUB
QB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	INDIANAPOLIS	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	@ MIAMI	SEPT. 18	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	@ NEW ORLEANS	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	PITTSBURGH	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	OAKLAND	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	@ BALTIMORE	OCT. 16	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 7	@ TENNESSEE	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	JACKSONVILLE	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	CLEVELAND	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ TAMPA BAY	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	OPEN			
WEEK 12	@ JACKSONVILLE	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	ATLANTA	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	@ CINCINNATI	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	CAROLINA	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	@ INDIANAPOLIS	DEC. 22	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	TENNESSEE	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

pick on running back Ben Tate, but he suffered a season-ending leg injury in the first preseason game. Now, he's 100 percent but relegated to backup duty with Derrick Ward and Steve Slaton behind Foster.

Fans want to know if Foster is a one-year wonder or merely a product of the zone scheme that has produced a lot of 1,000-yard runners through the years. Foster, an undrafted free agent in 2009, led the league with 1,616 yards, 2,220 yards from scrimmage and 18 touchdowns. He was durable and also caught 66 passes.

Ward was a godsend after being waived by Tampa Bay, averaging 6.3 yards a carry and scoring four touchdowns. Slaton, a 1,000-yard rusher as a rookie in 2008, got only 19 carries but averaged 4.9 yards. Houston still has high hopes for Tate, who will get a lot of carries in preseason. Ideally, they'll all stay healthy and one can be traded at the end of camp. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▸ Andre Johnson gets a lot of recognition as the NFL's best receiver. And although his numbers dropped, he may have played his best season yet in 2010. Johnson, a perennial Pro Bowl selection, suffered a high-ankle sprain in the second game and played hurt the rest of the season. He couldn't practice and had to receive pain-killing shots to play. He missed two games but still finished with 86 catches for 1,216 yards and eight touchdowns.

Many fans and members of the media believe the Texans could do better than Kevin Walter (51 catches, 621 yards, 5 TDs) opposite Johnson, but the coaches love him. Like Johnson, Walter is tough, fearless and blocks like a fullback. The team expects a lot of improvement from Dorin Dickerson in his second season, especially with his height (6-4).

Houston could be even better if tight end Owen Daniels stays healthy. Returning from major knee surgery, he got off to a slow start but finished with 38 catches and 471 yards. Joel Dreessen filled in nicely for Daniels with 36 receptions and four touchdowns. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸ John Benton is underrated around the league, but the players respect the Texans' offensive line coach because he preaches technique and toughness. As a group, they did an outstanding job of run blocking for Foster last year. No Houston lineman made the Pro Bowl, though.

Tackles Duane Brown and Eric Winston are veteran starters who don't get much attention unless they allow a sack. In his first season with the Texans after signing as a free agent, left guard Wade Smith brought the kind of nasty attitude that coaches love, especially in the running game. Center Chris Myers and right guard Antoine Caldwell are smart and solid. Still, the pass protection could be better, as Schaub was sacked 32 times in 2010. **GRADE: B**

5-YEAR RECORD: 37-43

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Texans)

"I don't think it'll surprise anybody if they're one of the most improved teams. They went from (9-7) to 6-10 because their defense was bad. I don't know how many tough losses they had, but I do know it was enough for a couple of seasons. Bringing in Wade Phillips to coordinate the defense was a good move. Wade knows what he's doing. Switching (to a 3-4) will take some time to adjust to, and they may start slow, but they'll get better as the season goes. I expect them to be real aggressive on defense. They had some health issues on that side of the ball, and getting those injured players (Mario Williams, DeMeco Ryans and Connor Barwin) back will help them a lot. ...

"They've got a good offense. I think they surprised everybody with their running game last season when the (Arian) Foster kid led the league in rushing. We'll see if he can do it again. As long as (quarterback) Matt Schaub stays healthy, they'll have one of the best passing games."

FANTASY SPIN

After a breakout 2010 campaign, owners will have to spend a top-three pick to land Arian Foster. If you do, keep in mind Foster has a history of knee injuries, making Ben Tate a necessity.

BUY

Andre Johnson

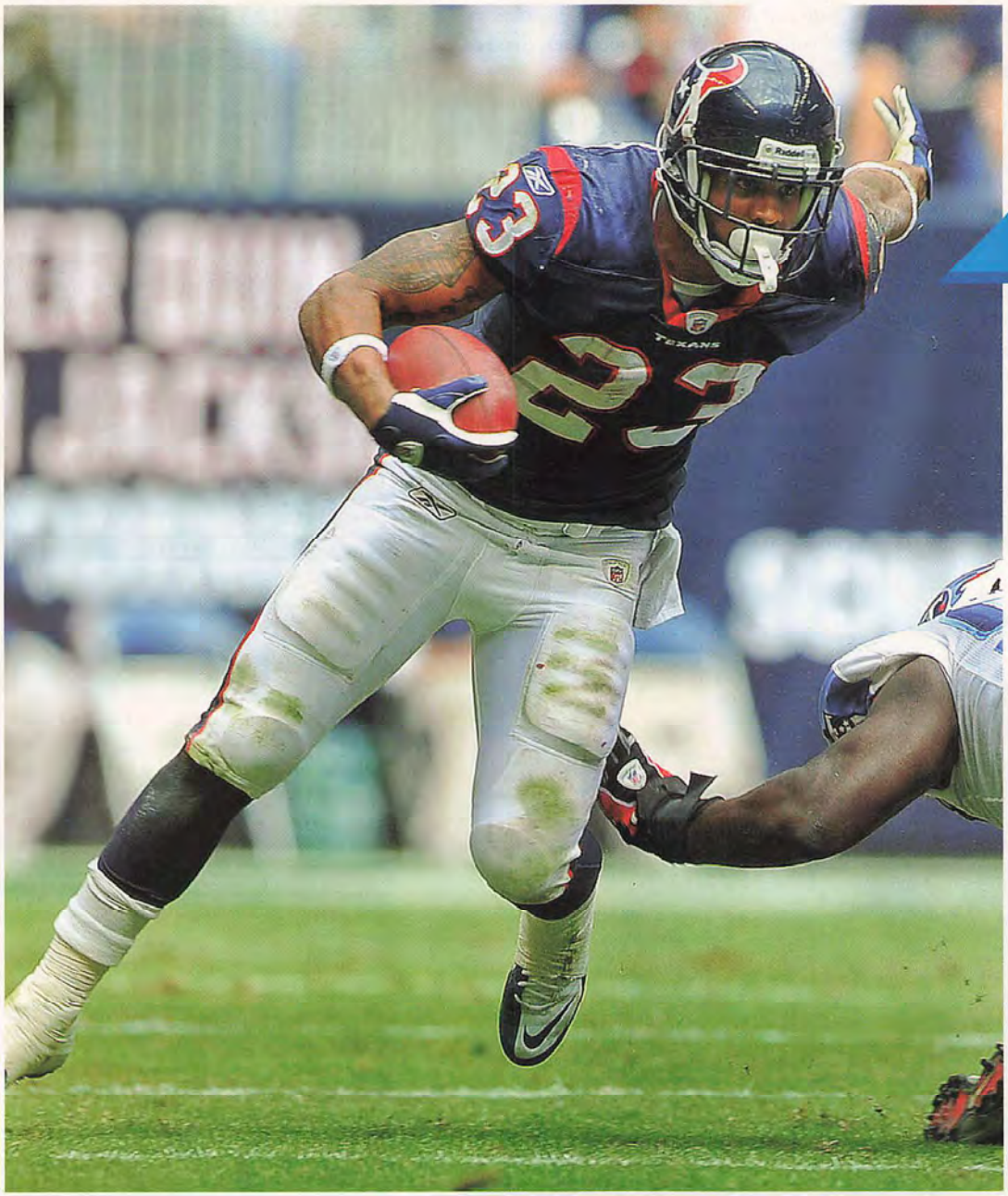
SELL

Kevin Walter

SLEEPER

Owen Daniels

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



PATRICK GREEN / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

ARIAN FOSTER

"That zone running scheme Mike Shanahan and Gary Kubiak use has seen a lot of 1,000-yard rushers. We'll see if Arian Foster can do it again. Anytime you see a back in that system have a good season—great in this case—you wonder if it's him, the system or a combination. I think Foster is the real deal, but you want to see him do it again. He came out of nowhere and led the league in a lot of stats (rushing yards, yards from scrimmage and touchdowns), and none of his linemen went to the Pro Bowl. ...

"A few things stand out about him. He does a fantastic job of following his blockers. When you're watching him do that on tape, it's a thing of beauty. He's also an excellent receiver that gets a lot of yards after the catch. And he was durable. He was supposed to have a fumble problem coming out of college, but I haven't seen that being an issue."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	386.6	3
Rushing	127.6	7
Passing	259.0	4
Scoring	390	9
Punt Returns	6.7	29
Kick Returns	19.8	27
Red Zone TD %	62.3	5
Total Defense	376.9	30
Against Rush	109.4	13
AGAINST PASS	**267.5**	**32**
Points Allowed	427	29
Interceptions	13	23t
Sacks	30	23t
Turnover Diff.	0	13t

DEFENSE

After plunging from a tie for 13th to 30th in defense, defensive coordinator Frank Bush, linebackers coach Johnny Holland and secondary coach David Gibbs were fired. Phillips was hired to replace Bush. He's switching to a 3-4 scheme, though it vaguely resembles a 4-3 because the linemen play one gap rather than two. They're lighter because Phillips wants them getting up the field as soon as the ball is snapped.

Defensive line ➤ End Mario Williams played hurt last season and registered 8.5 sacks before going on injured reserve and having surgery for two sports hernias. He's now 100 percent and will be responsible for only one gap in the new 3-4 plan. Phillips is excited about coaching a player with Williams' ability. The other starting end, Antonio Smith, played in a similar 3-4 system with Arizona, so he should make a smooth transition. The coaches say Smith was the best and most consistent defensive lineman last season. Watt (6-5, 290 pounds) was the team's first-round pick. He'll play outside in running situations or inside on passing downs.

The key is nose tackle, where Phillips believes Earl Mitchell (6-2, 291) and Shaun Cody (6-4, 310) will be able to play. Phillips likes his nose tackles to be lighter and quicker to penetrate in their one-gap responsibility.

Mitchell, a third-round pick last season, made the inside rotation and performed well enough to impress Phillips. The odd man out is Amobi Okoye (6-2, 315), who started at tackle his first four seasons and

played the run well. He's expected to now be a reserve end. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ➤ The switch to a 3-4 is causing the biggest change at linebacker, and it's important to have inside linebacker DeMeco Ryans (ruptured Achilles tendon) and outside man Connor Barwin (broken foot) healthy. Both are expected to be ready for training camp.

Ryans, one of the leaders on defense, was lost for the season when the Texans were 4-2. They went 2-8 without him. He'll play on the weak side next to Brian Cushing, who is more suited to the strong side.

The coaches plan to see what Williams can do at outside linebacker, too. They want Williams down and up, inside and outside. Brooks Reed, the team's 2011 second-round pick, will play the strong side and drop down in passing situations. If Williams is playing linebacker, Reed or Barwin will play the strong side.

As a rookie in 2009, Barwin came off the bench in passing situations and played end. The coaches had high hopes for him last season, but he suffered a season-ending injury in the 2010 opener.

Houston's best reserves are Darryl Sharpton (who's coming off shoulder surgery) and Xavier Adibi. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ➤ Every veteran defensive back who earned playing time last season played worse than in 2009. Cornerback Kareem Jackson, Houston's first-round pick last year, finished second in the league in yards allowed even though he showed a lot of promise. Jackson is solid at one spot and should

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	34-24	Indianapolis Colts
09/19	W	30-27	Washington Redskins
09/26	L	13-27	Dallas Cowboys
10/03	W	31-24	Oakland Raiders
10/10	L	10-34	New York Giants
10/17	W	35-31	Kansas City Chiefs
11/01	L	17-30	Indianapolis Colts
11/07	L	23-29	San Diego Chargers
11/14	L	24-31	Jacksonville Jaguars
11/21	L	27-30	New York Jets
11/28	W	20-0	Tennessee Titans
12/02	L	24-34	Philadelphia Eagles
12/13	L	28-34	Baltimore Ravens
12/19	L	17-31	Tennessee Titans
12/26	L	23-24	Denver Broncos
01/02	W	34-17	Jacksonville Jaguars

WON 6, LOST 10

DRAFT REPORT

Defensive end **J.J. Watt** may have been drafted too high, but he is a great fit in the Texans' 3-4 scheme and should start as a rookie. He is a tall, long-armed lineman with good strength and excellent toughness, but lacks the explosiveness and elite athleticism to be an impact pass rusher in the NFL. **Brooks Reed** played defensive end at Arizona, but the Texans want him as an outside linebacker for his deceptive athleticism, footwork, agility and pass-rush skills. He defeats pass blocks with ease and plays with intensity, which will make him an impact player as a rookie.

The Texans grabbed two athletic cornerbacks in **Brandon Harris** and **Rashad Carmichael**. Though Harris was chosen higher, Carmichael might turn out to be a better nickel cornerback. Houston made two risk-reward picks late, opting for **Shiloh Keo**, who should play right away on special teams, and QB **T.J. Yates**, who has a strong arm but might take time to develop.

Watt

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	11	J.J. Watt	DE	6-5	290	Wisconsin
2	10	Brooks Reed	OLB	6-2	263	Arizona
2	28	Brandon Harris	CB	5-10	191	Miami (Fla.)
4	30	Rashad Carmichael	CB	5-10	185	Virginia Tech
5	13	Shiloh Keo	SS	6-0	224	Idaho
5	21	T.J. Yates	QB	6-3	195	North Carolina
7	11	Derek Newton	OT	6-5	311	Arkansas State
7	51	Cheta Ozougwu	DE	6-2	247	Rice

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Foster	327	1616	7.9	74	16
Ward	50	315	6.3	38	4
Slaton	19	93	4.9	23	0
Schaub	22	28	1.3	8	0
Johnson	2	10	5.0	7	0
Jones	2	7	3.5	10	0
Turk	1	-27	-27.0	-27	0
HOUSTON	**423**	**2042**	**7.8**	**74**	**20**
OPPONENTS	**433**	**1751**	**4.0**	**42**	**16**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	86	1216	14.1	60	8
Foster	66	604	9.2	50	2
Jones	51	562	11.0	47	3
Walter	51	621	12.2	35	5
Daniels	38	471	12.4	31	2
Dreessen	36	518	14.4	43	4
Anderson	11	117	10.6	35	0
Casey	8	98	12.3	33	0
Leach	8	91	11.4	21	0
Ward	7	61	8.7	12	0
Slaton	3	11	3.7	12	0
HOUSTON	**365**	**4370**	**12.0**	**60**	**24**
OPPONENTS	**354**	**4230**	**12.1**	**73**	**33**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Schaub	574	365	4370	24	12
HOUSTON	**574**	**365**	**4370**	**24**	**12**
OPPONENTS	**547**	**354**	**4499**	**33**	**13**

SACKS HOUSTON 30, OPPONENTS 32

Williams 8.5, Anderson 4, Smith 4, Okoye 3, Pollard 2.5, Cushing 1.5, Jamison 1, Lewis 1, Mitchell 1, Nolan 1, Ryans 1, Sharpton 1, Nading 0.5

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9	Leinart, Matt	QB	6-5	232	5/11/83	6	USC
7	Orlovsky, Dan	QB	6-5	230	8/18/83	7	Connecticut
8	Schaub, Matt	QB	6-5	240	6/25/81	8	Virginia
	Yates, T.J.	QB	6-3	195	5/28/87	0	North Carolina

OFFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
65	Brisiel, Mike	G	6-5	300	3/14/83	4	Colorado State
76	Brown, Duane	T	6-4	312	8/30/85	4	Virginia Tech
78	Butler, Rashad	T	6-4	308	2/10/83	6	Miami (Fla.)
62	Caldwell, Antoine	C	6-3	305	4/19/86	3	Alabama
55	Myers, Chris	G	6-4	295	9/15/81	7	Miami (Fla.)
	Newton, Derek	T	6-5	311	11/16/87	0	Arkansas State
70	Pemberton, Cole	T	6-7	315	7/1/87	1	Colorado State
71	Smith, Shelley	G	6-4	299	5/21/87	2	Colorado State
74	Smith, Wade	T	6-4	296	4/26/81	8	Memphis
64	Studdard, Kasey	G	6-3	302	7/1/84	5	Texas
	Wallace, Cody	C	6-4	300	11/26/84	3	Texas A&M
46	Weeks, Jon	LS	5-10	245	2/17/86	2	Baylor
73	Winston, Eric	T	6-5	314	11/17/83	6	Miami (Fla.)

RUNNING BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
23	Foster, Arian	RB	6-1	227	8/24/86	3	Tennessee
44	Leach, Vonta	RB	6-0	255	11/6/81	8	East Carolina
27	Ogbonnaya, Chris	RB	6-0	225	5/20/86	2	Texas
20	Slaton, Steve	RB	5-9	215	1/4/86	4	West Virginia
43	Tate, Ben	RB	5-11	220	8/21/88	2	Auburn
32	Ward, Derrick	RB	5-11	228	8/30/80	8	Ottawa (Kan.)

RECEIVERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
89	Anderson, David	WR	5-10	197	7/28/83	6	Colorado State
86	Casey, James	TE	6-3	240	9/22/84	3	Rice
81	Daniels, Owen	TE	6-3	250	11/9/82	6	Wisconsin
19	Dickerson, Dorin	WR	6-4	226	3/31/88	2	Pittsburgh
85	Dreessen, Joel	TE	6-4	250	7/26/82	6	Colorado State
88	Graham, Garrett	TE	6-3	243	8/4/86	2	Wisconsin
87	Hill, Anthony	TE	6 6	277	1/2/85	3	N.C. State
16	Holliday, Trindon	WR	5-5	166	4/27/86	2	LSU
80	Johnson, Andre	WR	6-3	225	7/11/81	9	Miami (Fla.)
12	Jones, Jacoby	WR	6-2	210	7/11/84	5	Lane
14	Townsel, Derrick	WR	5-9	175	7/12/88	1	Murray State
83	Walter, Kevin	WR	6-3	218	8/4/81	9	Eastern Michigan
17	Williams, Paul	WR	6-1	196	12/2/83	3	Fresno State

DEFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
96	Anderson, Mark	DE	6-4	255	5/26/83	6	Alabama
98	Barwin, Connor	DE	6-4	254	10/15/86	3	Cincinnati
93	Bulman, Tim	DT	6-4	275	10/31/82	5	Boston College
95	Cody, Shaun	DE	6-4	310	1/22/83	7	USC
77	Green, Jarvis	DE	6-3	285	1/12/79	9	LSU
96	Jamison, Tim	DE	6-3	273	2/26/86	3	Michigan
97	Lewis, Damione	DT	6-2	301	3/1/78	11	Miami (Fla.)
92	Mitchell, Earl	DT	6-2	291	9/25/87	2	Arizona
72	Nading, Jesse	DE	6-5	264	7/3/85	3	Colorado State
91	Okoye, Amobi	DT	6-2	315	6/10/87	5	Louisville
94	Smith, Antonio	DE	6-4	295	10/21/81	8	Oklahoma State
	Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	290	3/22/89	0	Wisconsin
90	Williams, Mario	DE	6-6	295	1/31/85	6	N.C. State

DEFENSIVE BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
30	Allen, Jason	CB	6-1	200	7/5/83	6	Tennessee
	Baker, Antonio	S	5-11	210	11/23/87	1	Louisiana Tech
34	Barber, Dominique	S	6-0	215	8/2/86	4	Minnesota
	Carmichael, Rashad	CB	5-10	185	9/9/88	0	Virginia Tech
39	Demps, Quintin	S	5-11	206	6/29/85	3	UTEP
	Harris, Brandon	CB	5-10	191	1/24/90	0	Miami (Fla.)
25	Jackson, Kareem	CB	5-10	196	4/10/88	2	Alabama
	Keo, Shiloh	S	6-0	224	12/17/87	0	Idaho
21	McCain, Brice	CB	5-9	185	12/10/86	3	Utah
22	McManis, Sherrick	CB	5-11	195	12/19/87	2	Northwestern
28	Molden, Antwaun	CB	6-2	202	1/23/85	4	Eastern Kentucky
33	Nolan, Troy	S	6-2	206	9/7/86	3	Arizona State
24	Paymah, Karl	CB	6-0	195	11/29/82	6	Washington State
31	Pollard, Bernard	S	6-1	224	12/23/84	6	Purdue
29	Quin, Glover	CB	6-0	205	1/15/86	3	New Mexico
42	Williams, Torri	S	6-2	208	8/29/86	2	Purdue

LINEBACKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52	Adibi, Xavier	LB	6-2	242	10/18/84	4	Virginia Tech
57	Bentley, Kevin	LB	6-0	248	12/29/79	10	Northwestern
56	Cushing, Brian	LB	6-3	260	1/24/87	3	USC
54	Diles, Zac	LB	6-2	245	6/11/85	5	Kansas State
53	Keglar, Stanford	LB	6-2	250	7/4/85	4	Purdue
	Ozougwu, Cheta	LB	6-2	247	11/18/88	0	Rice
	Reed, Brooks	LB	6-2	263	2/28/87	0	Arizona
59	Ryans, DeMeco	LB	6-1	250	7/28/84	6	Alabama
51	Sharpton, Darryl	LB	5-11	236	1/1/88	2	Miami (Fla.)

KICKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4	Rackers, Neil	K	6-1	206	8/16/76	12	Illinois
1	Turk, Matt	P	6-5	251	6/16/68	16	Wis.-Whitewater

GARY KUBIAK, Head coach

Bill Kollar, assistant head coach/defensive line; **Rick Dennison,** offensive coordinator; **Wade Phillips,** defensive coordinator; **Joe Marciano,** special teams coordinator; **John Benton,** offensive line; **Chick Harris,** running backs; **Reggie Herring,** linebackers; **Vance Joseph,** defensive backs; **Larry Kirksey,** wide receivers; **Greg Knapp,** quarterbacks; **Brian Pariani,** tight ends; **Frank Pollack,** assistant offensive line; **Perry Carter,** assistant defensive backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

S Eugene Wilson (FA), **WR Andre Davis** (FA), **LB Darnell Bing** (FA), **LB Isaiah Greenhouse** (FA), **DT DeMario Pressley** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

GARY KUBIAK

Kubiak likes balance on offense. Houston ranked fourth in passing and seventh in rushing last year as a result. He also loves to run the bootleg with Matt Schaub. Kubiak will throw on third-and-one and run on fourth-and-one, especially with Schaub on the quarterback sneak. Kubiak doesn't gamble in his own territory, though.

Two draft choices, Brandon Harris (second round) and Rashad Carmichael (fourth), will also be competing for starting jobs. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Considering how bad his unit was, some think special teams coordinator Joe Marciano was fortunate to not get fired. The return teams did little to help field position, as the Texans averaged 6.7 yards on punt returns and 19.8 on kick runbacks. Punter Matt Turk was mediocre with a 42.1-yard average.

The best thing about the special teams was new kicker Neil Rackers, who beat out Kris Brown to start last year. Rackers nailed 27 of 30 field goals for 124 points in 2010. And unlike Brown the season before, he didn't blow any games.

Jon Weeks was perfect with every snap in his first campaign. When the regular season begins, expect Houston to have new return specialists, better blockers and a new punter. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

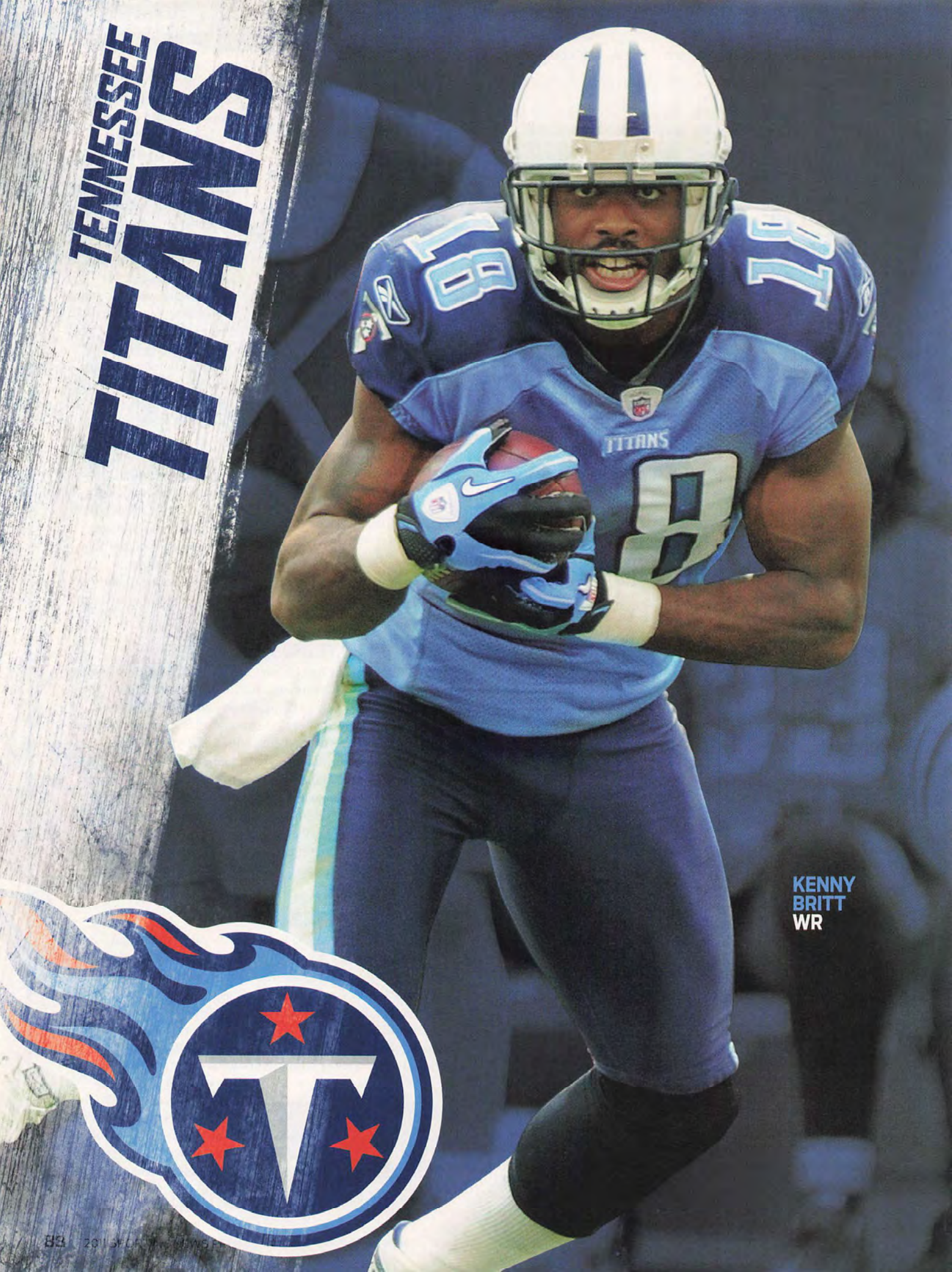
Barring an injury to Schaub, the Texans should have one of the NFL's best offenses for a third consecutive season. This is Schaub's fifth year in Kubiak's system, so the key is how much improvement the defense can make under Phillips, especially considering the transition to a 3-4 scheme.

A healthy Williams and Barwin and the additions of Watt and Reed should allow the pass rush to improve. With a veteran coordinator who understands coverage—not to mention a better pass rush—expect the defensive backs to cover better than last season when, collectively, they were the worst in the league. If that happens, the Texans can be a playoff contender.

81
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

TENNESSEE TITANS



KENNY
BRITT
WR

Nametags may be needed with all the new faces now in Nashville

By Jim Wyatt *The (Nashville) Tennessean*

Just when it looked like status quo would return for the Titans in 2011, there was a huge shake-up this offseason.

Longtime head coach Jeff Fisher departed after 16 full seasons, and was replaced by his longtime assistant, Mike Munchak.

Munchak will be working with a roster full of question marks, especially at the quarterback position, although one big answer was provided when the team used its first-round pick on Washington's Jake Locker.

The new coach has also surrounded himself with a revamped coaching staff with new coordinators on both sides of the football. Most figure it's going to take some time for him to implement his system, and get positive results.

Munchak, however, says he expects to win now.

"Our team, it is not rebuilding," Munchak says. "We are not sitting here saying because we have a new head coach, or because we were 6-10 last year we are expecting this to be an off year. We are expecting good things. … We are going to bring excitement back on Sunday afternoon and our goal is obviously to win, and win now."

OFFENSE

Mike Heimerdinger is out and Chris Palmer is in at offensive coordinator. He'll have his work cut out for him, as the Titans aren't sure who will play quarterback this fall. Locker will be in the mix, but he'll be competing with a veteran. The Titans know for sure Vince Young won't be a candidate, as the team headed into the offseason with plans to either trade or release him.

Palmer is expected to lean on the running game, but during his coaching career he's also proven to be a guy who's not afraid to take chances downfield.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 3-5

- **ONLINE:** www.titansonline.com
- **STADIUM:** LP Field

Capacity: 68,798 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 615-565-4200

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Baptist Sports Park, Nashville, Tenn.; 6-15-565-4190

Quarterbacks ▸ After keeping their fingers crossed and hoping Young would develop into the franchise's long-term answer at quarterback, the Titans finally decided to part ways with the No. 3 overall pick of the 2006 draft.

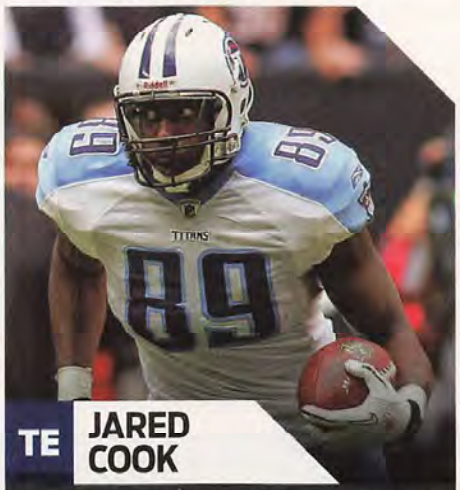
Locker is the future, but how quickly he plays remains to be seen. Even after the draft, the team made plans to add a veteran quarterback to the fold as well.

An extended lockout only improves the chances of veteran quarterback Kerry Collins returning to the Titans in 2011. Collins' contract expired at the end of the '10 campaign, but no one knows the offense better and could be a quick fix like Collins.

Only Rusty Smith, a sixth-round draft pick in 2010, remains under contract after last season. Smith is a work-in-progress, but he'll be given an opportunity to prove to a new coaching staff that he's worthy of being in the competition. **GRADE: C**

Running backs ▸ Chris Johnson produced his third straight 1,000-yard season in 2010, racking up 1,364 yards and 11

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



TE JARED COOK

We might have been a year early on this, as the Titans will get Cook (our pick here in 2010) a lot more involved under new offensive coordinator Chris Palmer. Cook has all the tools to be an impact player, and at the end of the 2010 season he began to show it.

TITANS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Jim Norton *(1960-68)*	45	2	Cris Dishman *(1988-96)*	31	3	Fred Glick *(1961-66)*	30

AFC SOUTH

SN PICK **6-10**

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Jake Locker Kerry Collins/Rusty Smith
FB	Ahmard Hall Craig Stevens
RB	Chris Johnson Javon Ringer
LT	Michael Roos Troy Kropog
LG	Leroy Harris Fernando Velasco
C	Eugene Amano Kevin Matthews
RG	Jake Scott Fernando Velasco
RT	David Stewart Mike Otto
TE	Jared Cook Craig Stevens
WR	Kenny Britt Damian Williams
WR	Nate Washington Justin Gage
DEFENSE	
DE	Derrick Morgan William Hayes
DT	Jason Jones Jurrell Casey
DT	Tony Brown Sen'Derrick Marks
DE	Jason Babin William Hayes
SLB	Gerald McRath Colin McCarthy
MLB	Stephen Tulloch Rennie Curran
WLB	Will Witherspoon Akeem Ayers
LCB	Cortland Finnegan Jason McCourty
SS	Chris Hope Robert Johnson
FS	Michael Griffin Vincent Fuller
RCB	Alterraun Verner Ryan Mouton
SPECIALISTS	
K	Rob Bironas
P	Brett Kern
KR	Marc Mariani
PR	Marc Mariani
LS	Ken Amato

BRETT DAVIS / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: DON MCPEAK / US PRESSWIRE

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ JACKSONVILLE	SEPT. 11	1:00
WEEK 2	BALTIMORE	SEPT. 18	1:00
WEEK 3	DENVER	SEPT. 25	1:00
WEEK 4	@ CLEVELAND	OCT. 2	1:00
WEEK 5	@ PITTSBURGH	OCT. 9	1:00
WEEK 6	OPEN		
WEEK 7	HOUSTON	OCT. 23	1:00
WEEK 8	INDIANAPOLIS	OCT. 30	1:00
WEEK 9	CINCINNATI	NOV. 6	4:05
WEEK 10	@ CAROLINA	NOV. 13	1:00
WEEK 11	@ ATLANTA	NOV. 20	1:00
WEEK 12	TAMPA BAY	NOV. 27	1:00
WEEK 13	@ BUFFALO	DEC. 4	1:00
WEEK 14	NEW ORLEANS	DEC. 11	1:00
WEEK 15	@ INDIANAPOLIS	DEC. 18	1:00
WEEK 16	JACKSONVILLE	DEC. 24	1:00
WEEK 17	@ HOUSTON	JAN. 1	1:00

Each game: W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

touchdowns. Then he had to answer questions about why he had such a "down" year. It wasn't a bad season, of course. It's just that after a 2,006-yard season in 2009, he raised expectations around the league to an unreasonable level.

A Pro Bowler in his first three NFL seasons, Johnson remains one of the league's most dangerous tailbacks. He has electrifying speed and is a real game-breaker even though defenses were able to do a better job of bottling him up in 2010. Tennessee was able to get backup running back Javon Ringer into the mix some in 2010, and he was effective when he got a chance. But the Titans also drafted Clemson's Jamie Harper and, as a bigger back, he could be part of a one-two punch. **GRADE: A-**

Receivers ▸ In Kenny Britt, the Titans have a receiver capable of being a superstar or a disappointing bust. Britt has provided signs of both in his first two NFL seasons. He led the team with 775 receiving yards and nine touchdowns last year, despite missing several games with injuries.

But off-field issues have also plagued Britt, including an arrest in April after a police chase in his hometown of Bayonne, N.J. If Britt settles down, the Titans think he could be a consistent difference-maker. The team has big plans for him in 2011, but is also keeping its fingers crossed.

The Titans are also expecting veteran receivers Nate Washington (687 yards, 6 TDs) and Justin Gage (266, 1) to be consistent for them as well, while Damian Williams figures to get more playing time in his second NFL season. Look for Marc Mariani to get a chance in the slot as well in Year 2.

At tight end, Jared Cook has a chance to make the biggest leap. Cook closed the 2010 season on a high note, and Palmer will find ways to get his hands on more footballs this fall. Cook is big and fast, and a tough matchup for defenders. **GRADE: B**

Offense line ▸ Tackles Michael Roos and David Stewart are two of the most underrated offensive linemen in the game. They've consistently been reliable in both protection and the run game, and both are in the prime of their careers.

Eugene Amano is expected to remain at center after switching from guard the previous seasons, and the Titans entered the offseason with plans to re-sign guard Leroy Harris. Veteran Jake Scott also returns.

The Titans lost their position coach when Munchak was elevated to the new spot, but the group's new teacher is plenty qualified. Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews will do his best to get the group in gear, and he'll have veterans anxious to return to form. **GRADE: B**

5-YEAR RECORD: 45-35

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Titans)

"When you play the Titans, there usually aren't a whole lot of secrets going in. You pretty much know what kind of game it's going to be going in. The Titans are going to run the football, and they're going to play physical on defense. ...

"They're also going to push things past the whistle at times. You have to keep your head on a swivel against the Titans because some of those guys are borderline dirty players. They call it 'playing with a chip on their shoulder' but some of the stuff they do is cheap. How much of that had to do with Jeff Fisher? I guess we'll all find out now since he's gone. ...

"I'm not expecting a lot of things to change with (new coach) Mike Munchak. They'll still try and play physical, smash-mouth football on both sides of the ball. Look at the Titans' offense, and running back Chris Johnson stands out. He's a dangerous weapon. But he's also running behind one of the best offensive lines in football."

FANTASY SPIN

Kenny Britt has breakout potential, but is carrying red flags—including last year's severe hamstring injury, the Titans' uncertain QB situation and off-field troubles. Be careful.

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PETER AIKEN / CAL SPORT MEDIA

THE BOOK ON ...

CHRIS JOHNSON

"Johnson can be a one-man wrecking crew if you let him. So the key to stopping the Titans is to slow down Johnson and not let him beat you with long runs. That was always easier when the Titans had Vince Young at quarterback. Because of his limitations, the plan was simple: Put eight men in the box and dare Young to beat you downfield. Most of the time he couldn't, and the extra bodies close to the line of scrimmage usually kept Johnson intact as well. Yeah, he'd still break some runs, but at least the plan was clear-cut going in. ...

"For he most part, he's physical. He's proven that by being able to carry the load week in and week out. But Johnson doesn't like to absorb big hits to the body. Put some shots on him early and he'll sometimes give up on plays."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	302.1	27
Rushing	107.9	17
Passing	194.2	25
Scoring	356	17
Punt Returns	12.2	4
Kick Returns	24.3	7t
Red Zone TD %	58.1	10
Total Defense	367.7	26
Against Rush	115.7	20
Against Pass	252.0	29
Points Allowed	339	15
Interceptions	17	11t
Sacks	40	8t
Turnover Diff.	-4	19t

DEFENSE

Jerry Gray replaced Chuck Cecil as defensive coordinator, and he's expected to bring a more aggressive approach to the table. While Cecil liked his players to play with an edge, he wasn't a coach who took a lot of chances, and his conservatism often came back to bite him.

In Gray's career, he's shown more of a tendency to blitz the quarterback. He'll bring that mindset to a defense that's struggled of late. Look for Gray to lean on his cornerbacks more in man coverage and use extra blitzers more often than Cecil did.

Defensive line ▸ The Titans headed into the offseason uncertain about which players would return on defense, but the unit took a hit when defensive line coach Jim Washburn left the organization to accept a job with the Eagles. He'll be greatly missed, and new line coach Tracy Rocker has some big shoes to fill.

The success of the defensive line will largely depend on who returns. Defensive end Jason Babin racked up 12.5 sacks in 2010 and was named to the Pro Bowl. But he became a free agent this offseason and many considered his signing a big priority.

One guy who will be counted on to step up regardless is defensive end Derrick Morgan, a first-round draft pick last year who suffered a torn ACL in Week 4 and was lost for the season. Morgan was on schedule to be healthy and ready to make a big impact in Year 2. In the middle, defensive tackles Jason Jones and Tony Brown could be a force, although Brown's troublesome knees have limited his effectiveness of late. Jones

is an impressive athlete who has a knack for getting to the quarterback.

In his third NFL season, Sen'Derrick Marks has a chance to make a much bigger impact than he did in his first two campaigns.

Some new faces will be a part of the equation, and could bump some regulars from 2010. The Titans drafted USC tackle Jurrell Casey in the third round, and also added Iowa's Karl Klug and Auburn's Zach Clayton to the mix. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers > The Titans missed the tone-setting play of longtime Titan linebacker Keith Bulluck (who signed with the Giants) in 2010. Outside linebackers Will Witherspoon and Gerald McRath had their share of moments, though. Witherspoon had three sacks and two interceptions along with 92 tackles last year, while McRath totaled 58 tackles and 1.5 sacks. The real workhorse of the unit was middle linebacker Stephen Tulloch, who had a whopping 160 tackles in 2010.

The Titans believes Akeem Ayers will be able to make a big difference immediately. The team drafted Ayers in the second round and plans to line him up in a number of places. The Titans also added former University of Miami linebacker Colin McCarthy. He'll compete for playing time as well.

It's uncertain whether Tulloch will return this fall. He entered free agency in the offseason and the Titans haven't made a habit of re-signing middle linebackers to big contracts. Linebacker

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	38-13	Oakland Raiders
09/19	L	11-19	Pittsburgh Steelers
09/26	W	29-10	New York Giants
10/03	L	20-26	Denver Broncos
10/10	W	34-27	Dallas Cowboys
10/18	W	30-3	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/24	W	37-19	Philadelphia Eagles
10/31	L	25-33	San Diego Chargers
11/14	L	17-29	Miami Dolphins
11/21	L	16-19	Washington Redskins
11/28	L	0-20	Houston Texans
12/05	L	6-17	Jacksonville Jaguars
12/09	L	28-30	Indianapolis Colts
12/19	W	31-17	Houston Texans
12/26	L	14-34	Kansas City Chiefs
01/02	L	20-23	Indianapolis Colts

WON 6, LOST 10

DRAFT REPORT

The Titans took an enormous gamble by grabbing **Jake Locker** with the No. 8 overall pick. Despite being an elite athlete with great intangibles and a strong arm, his accuracy was bad at the University of Washington, and history shows that quarterbacks who lack accuracy aren't successful in the NFL. **Akeem Ayers** wasn't a flashy pick, but he provided value in the second round to a team that wants a strongside linebacker who can pass rush.

Defensive tackle **Jurrell Casey**, a third-rounder, has the strength to anchor the point of attack and beat one-on-one blocks. He could develop into a starter in a season or two.

Locker

GRADE C+

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	8	Jake Locker	QB	6-2	231	Washington
2	7	Akeem Ayers	OLB	6-3	254	UCLA
3	13	Jurrell Casey	DT	6-1	300	USC
4	12	Colin McCarthy	ILB	6-1	238	Miami (Fla.)
4	33	Jamie Harper	RB	5-11	233	Clemson
5	11	Karl Klug	DE	6-3	275	Iowa
6	10	Byron Stingily	OT	6-5	313	Louisville
7	9	Zach Clayton	DT	6-2	299	Auburn
7	48	Tommie Campbell	FS	6-3	205	California (Pa.)

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	316	1364	4.3	76	11
Ringer	51	239	4.7	54	2
Young	25	125	5.0	20	0
Williams	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hall	1	1	1.0	1	0
Collins	10	1	0.1	4	0
Kern	1	0	0.0	0	0
Washington	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
TENNESSEE	**406**	**1727**	**4.3**	**76**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**474**	**1851**	**3.9**	**37**	**7**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson	44	245	5.6	25	1
Washington	42	687	16.4	71	6
Britt	42	775	18.5	80	9
Scaife	36	318	8.8	30	4
Cook	29	361	12.4	36	1
Gage	20	266	13.3	30	1
Williams	16	219	13.7	39	0
Hall	15	100	6.7	19	0
Stevens	11	122	11.1	28	2
Ringer	7	44	6.3	9	0
Moss	6	80	13.3	26	0
Hawkins	5	61	12.2	24	0
TENNESSEE	**273**	**3278**	**12.0**	**80**	**24**
OPPONENTS	**410**	**4032**	**9.8**	**75**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Collins	278	160	1823	14	8
Young	156	93	1255	10	3
Smith	40	20	200	0	4
TENNESSEE	**474**	**273**	**3278**	**24**	**15**
OPPONENTS	**625**	**410**	**4304**	**23**	**17**

SACKS TENNESSEE 40, OPPONENTS 27

Babin 12.5, Ball 7, Brown 3.5, Jones 3.5, Ford 3, Witherspoon 3, Hayes 1.5, McRath 1.5, Morgan 1.5, Hope 1. Finnegan 1. Tulloch 1

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Collins, Kerry	QB	6-5	247	12/30/72	17	Penn State
Locker, Jake	QB	6-2	231	6/15/88	0	Washington
Ratliff, Brett	QB	6-4	224	8/8/85	3	Utah
7 Simms, Chris	QB	6-4	230	8/29/80	9	Texas
11 Smith, Rusty	QB	6-5	226	1/28/87	2	Florida Atlantic
10 Young, Vince	QB	6-5	232	5/18/83	6	Texas

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
54 Amano, Eugene	C	6-3	300	3/1/82	8	Southeast Missouri State
58 Amato, Ken	LS	6-2	240	5/18/77	9	Montana State
77 Durand, Ryan	G	6-5	305	11/17/85	2	Syracuse
Hansen, Jeff	G	6-4	301	9/24/86	1	Montana State
64 Harris, Leroy	C	6-3	303	6/6/84	5	N.C. State
Ingram, Jake	C	6-3	240	10/23/85	3	Hawaii
70 Kropog, Troy	T	6-6	308	7/31/86	3	Tulane
60 Matthews, Kevin	C	6-3	302	2/4/87	1	Texas A&M
66 Otto, Michael	T	6-5	310	7/24/83	4	Purdue
71 Roos, Michael	T	6-7	320	10/5/82	7	Eastern Washington
73 Scott, Jake	G	6-5	292	4/16/81	8	Idaho
76 Stewart, David	T	6-7	315	8/28/82	7	Mississippi State
Stingily, Byron	T	6-5	313	9/9/88	0	Louisville
61 Velasco, Fernando	C	6-4	312	2/22/85	2	Georgia

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Donaldson, Herb	RB	5-11	221	12/13/85	1	Western Illinois
45 Hall, Ahmard	RB	5-11	241	11/13/79	6	Texas
Harper, Jamie	RB	5-11	233	9/11/89	0	Clemson
28 Johnson, Chris	RB	5-11	191	9/23/85	4	East Carolina
26 Johnson, Stafon	RB	5-11	222	2/6/88	2	USC
Lindsay, Dominique	RB	5-10	201	12/8/86	2	East Carolina
21 Ringer, Javon	RB	5-9	207	2/7/87	3	Michigan State
Tronzo, Joe	RB	5-11	242	6/10/87	1	Louisville

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
18 Britt, Kenny	WR	6-3	215	9/19/88	3	Rutgers
89 Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	248	4/7/87	3	South Carolina
Figurs, Yamon	WR	5-11	185	1/10/82	4	Kansas State
12 Gage, Justin	WR	6-4	204	1/24/81	9	Missouri
Geer, Riar	TE	6-4	250	12/19/86	1	Colorado
87 Hawkins, Lavelle	WR	5-11	194	7/12/86	4	California
83 Mariani, Marc	WR	6-1	190	5/2/87	2	Montana
84 Moss, Randy	WR	6-4	210	2/13/77	14	Marshall
80 Scaife, Bo	TE	6-3	249	1/6/81	7	Texas
88 Stevens, Craig	TE	6-3	268	9/1/84	4	California
85 Washington, Nate	WR	6-1	177	8/28/83	7	Tiffin University
17 Williams, Damian	WR	6-1	199	5/26/88	2	USC

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Babin, Jason	DE	6-3	260	5/24/80	8	Western Michigan
98 Ball, Dave	DE	6-5	255	1/4/81	7	UCLA
79 Brown, Kareem	DT	6-4	285	1/30/84	4	Miami (Fla.)
97 Brown, Tony	DE	6-3	305	9/29/80	7	Memphis
Casey, Jurrell	DT	6-1	300	12/5/89	0	USC
Clayton, Zach	DT	6-2	299	1/1/88	0	Auburn
72 Davis, Hall	DE	6-5	271	3/2/87	1	Louisiana-Lafayette
99 Douglas, Marques	DE	6-2	290	3/15/77	11	Howard
Egboh, Pannel	DE	6-6	287	3/23/86	1	Stanford
78 Ford, Jacob	DE	6-4	252	7/20/83	5	Central Arkansas
75 Haye, Jovan	DE	6-2	277	6/21/82	7	Vanderbilt
95 Hayes, William	DE	6-3	272	5/2/85	4	Winston Salem State
91 Jones, Jason	DE	6-5	276	5/23/86	4	Eastern Michigan
Klug, Karl	DT	6-3	275	3/31/88	0	Iowa
94 Marks, Sen'Derrick	DT	6-2	294	2/23/87	3	Auburn
90 Morgan, Derrick	DE	6-3	278	1/6/89	2	Georgia Tech
96 Sheppard, Malcolm	DT	6-2	285	2/13/88	2	Arkansas

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Campbell, Tommie	S	6-3	205	1/19/87	0	California (Pa.)
31 Finnegan, Cortland	CB	5-10	188	2/2/84	6	Samford
22 Fuller, Vincent	S	6-1	192	8/3/82	7	Virginia Tech
33 Griffin, Michael	S	6-0	203	1/4/85	5	Texas
Hawkins, Chris	CB	6-0	187	4/12/86	1	LSU
37 Hood, Roderick	CB	5-11	201	10/3/81	9	Auburn
24 Hope, Chris	S	6-0	204	9/29/80	10	Florida State
38 Ittersagen, Pete	CB	5-10	189	9/28/85	1	Wheaton
32 Johnson, Robert	S	6-2	206	2/13/87	2	Utah
30 McCourty, Jason	CB	6-0	188	8/13/87	3	Rutgers
29 Mouton, Ryan	CB	5-9	184	9/23/86	3	Hawaii
23 Nickey, Donnie	S	6-3	226	4/25/80	9	Ohio State
25 Rolle, Myron	S	6-2	219	10/30/86	1	Florida State
39 Schommer, Nick	S	5-11	204	1/3/86	2	North Dakota State
20 Verner, Alterraun	CB	5-10	187	12/13/88	2	UCLA

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Allred, Colin	LB	6-1	242	4/15/83	4	Baylor
Ayers, Akeem	LB	6-2	254	7/10/89	0	UCLA
57 Bailey, Patrick	LB	6-4	235	11/19/85	4	Duke
53 Curran, Rennie	LB	5-11	230	11/10/88	2	Georgia
90 Howard, Marcus	LB	6-0	244	10/12/85	3	Georgia
Malast, Kevin	LB	6-1	233	6/6/86	1	Rutgers
McCarthy, Colin	LB	6-1	238	5/30/88	0	Miami (Fla.)
51 McRath, Gerald	LB	6-3	228	6/16/86	3	Southern Miss
59 Shaw, Tim	LB	6-1	236	3/27/84	4	Penn State
50 Thornton, David	LB	6-2	233	11/1/78	10	North Carolina
55 Tulloch, Stephen	LB	5-11	240	1/1/85	6	N.C. State
52 Winborn, Jamie	LB	5-11	230	5/14/79	10	Vanderbilt
92 Witherspoon, Will	LB	6-1	240	8/19/80	10	Georgia

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Bironas, Rob	K	6-0	210	1/29/78	7	Georgia Southern
6 Kern, Brett	P	6-2	217	2/17/86	4	Toledo

MIKE MUNCHAK, Head coach

Chris Palmer, offensive coordinator; **Jerry Gray,** defensive coordinator; **Alan Lowry,** special teams; **Dave McGinnis,** senior assistant coach; **Frank Bush,** linebackers; **Curtis Fuller,** assistant secondary; **Dowell Loggains,** quarterbacks/passing game; **Bruce Matthews,** offensive line; **Chet Parlavecchio,** assistant special teams; **Dave Ragone,** wide receivers; **Marcus Robertson,** secondary; **Tracy Rocker,** defensive line; **Jim Skipper,** running backs; **Art Valero,** assistant offensive line; **John Zernhelt,** tight ends

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE MUNCHAK

It's impossible to know exactly how Munchak will operate in his first season as head coach. Chances are he'll be a lot like the man he replaced, Jeff Fisher. Look for Munchak to rely on his running game, and one of his top priorities is to return the defense to championship-caliber play. He'll likely lean more to the conservative side in Year 1 as he gets comfortable, and while he'll probably never be a riverboat gambler, he did play in the high-flying Run 'N Shoot days in Houston. He's used to a little excitement.

Rennie Curran, a backup as a rookie in 2010, should get an opportunity to be in the mix for playing time. **GRADE: C-**

Secondary › The Titans head into the 2011 season with a solid group of cornerbacks, but it's also a group that needs to make more plays. Cortland Finnegan and Alterraun Verner are expected to retain their starting positions, while Jason McCourty will be the third cornerback on the field when the team goes into the nickel package.

Finnegan was largely inconsistent in 2010, and had just two interceptions on the year. But his ceiling remains high and he has potential to be among the league's best when playing well. McCourty is physical in the run game, but he hauled in just two interceptions in '10 as well.

The team had no complaints about Verner, who had three interceptions and was always around the football as a rookie. Safety Michael Griffin returned to form—and the Pro Bowl—in 2010, and the Titans are expecting big things out of him this year. Griffin had a team-high four interceptions last season.

Look for the Titans to ask veteran Chris Hope to play less in space and more around the line of scrimmage. Tennessee believes that will make him a more effective player. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Mariani was the biggest surprise of the 2010 season for the Titans. The seventh-round pick out of Montana set the franchise record for return yards and made it to the Pro Bowl.

The Titans are solid in the kicking game with kicker Rob Bironas and punter Brett Kern. Bironas was 24-of-26 in 2010, while Kern averaged 42.9 yards and a 39.1 net. Long snapper Ken Amato has been mostly dependable. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

The Titans haven't won a playoff game since the 2003 season. Don't expect the streak to come to an end this fall. Coming off a disappointing 6-10 season, the Titans will be hard-pressed to make a huge leap. The team entered the offseason with too many question marks at too many key positions.

Having a star running back in Johnson will give the Titans a chance in a lot of games, but the defense needs to make drastic improvements. Tennessee also has to hope there's a QB on the roster who can lead the team to a successful season in 2011. It won't be easy.

75 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: DOWN

4 AFC SOUTH

SN PICK **5-11**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	David Garrard Blaine Gabbert
FB	Greg Jones Montell Owens
RB	Maurice Jones-Drew Rashad Jennings
LT	Eugene Monroe Guy Whimper
LG	Vince Manuwai Justin Smiley
C	Brad Meester Uche Nwaneri
RG	Uche Nwaneri Will Rackley
RT	Eben Britton Kevin Haslam
TE	Marcedes Lewis Zach Miller
WR	Jason Hill Cecil Shorts
WR	Mike Thomas Jarett Dillard
DEFENSE	
DE	Austen Lane Derrick Harvey
DT	Tyson Alualu D'Anthony Smith
DT	Terrance Knighton C.J. Mosley
DE	Aaron Kampman Jeremy Mincey
SLB	Daryl Smith Alvin Bowen
MLB	Jacob Cutrera Russell Allen
WLB	Russell Allen Kyle Bosworth
LCB	Derek Cox Rod Issac
SS	Courtney Greene Tyron Brackenridge
FS	Don Carey Chris Prosinski
RCB	Rashean Mathis William Middleton
SPECIALISTS	
K	Josh Scobee
P	Adam Podlesh
KR	Deji Karim
PR	Scotty McGee
LS	Jeremy Cain

Garrard's play and Jaguars' defense are keys for Del Rio's job security

By Gene Frenette *Florida Times-Union*

The Jaguars remain in a transition phase because their defense continues to be an eyesore that is holding this franchise back. The good news is that since Gene Smith took over as general manager in 2009, the roster has been upgraded.

While Jacksonville has fared well in the last two drafts and both lines are structurally better, the defense in the back seven needs a major overhaul.

"For our team to take the next step, our defense has to take the next step," Smith says. "The defense has to make a move."

With only one playoff win in 11 years and coach Jack Del Rio being given a tepid vote of confidence by owner Wayne Weaver to return for a ninth season, the Jaguars are trying to hurry along the reconstruction. Del Rio, whose assistants are all under one-year contracts, and quarterback David Garrard both need big years to ensure their return in 2012.

OFFENSE

The Jaguars made significant strides from 2009, which is why coordinator Dirk Koetter landed a head-coaching interview with the Denver Broncos. Though Garrard remains inconsistent and will now be pushed by first-round draft pick Blaine Gabbert, he did have five brilliant games with passer ratings higher than 120 last year. With two big weapons in running back Maurice Jones-Drew and tight end Marcedes Lewis, the key to this offense blossoming further will be having a dependable go-to receiver who can stretch the field.

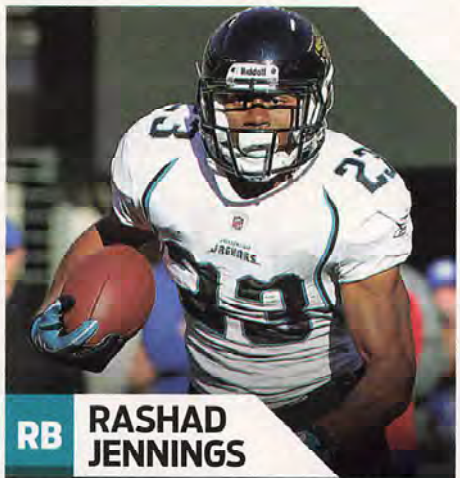
Look for Koetter to stay close to a 50-50 balance between run and pass. He's one of the league's most underrated coaches. If you give Koetter enough options, he will win his share of chess games.

Quarterbacks ➤ Garrard is effective when the Jaguars have their running game in high gear, but he's not someone you want throwing too often. Most of his interceptions and batted-down passes tend to happen as the Jaguars become too pass-heavy.

Five seasons of being the full-time starter have proven Garrard can only carry an offense in spurts, not long stretches. Garrard's weakness is not seeing enough of the field or looking off receivers. He fared better in 2010 with a franchise-record 23 touchdown passes, but has yet to justify the $60 million contract the team gave him after his breakout season in 2007.

With Gabbert aboard, the leash now gets shorter for Garrard. It's doubtful Gabbert, with only three years at Missouri in a spread offense, can be ready for an NFL starting role quickly. But if Garrard gets hurt or the Jaguars find themselves out of playoff contention by early December, they will be tempted to start the transition into the Gabbert era. Veteran Luke McCown was re-signed as an insurance policy, but that was simply a stopgap measure. **GRADE: B-**

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



RB RASHAD JENNINGS

The third-year back from Liberty has gradually earned the coaches' trust, carrying the ball 84 times last year for 459 yards. The Jaguars would like to lighten the load on Maurice Jones-Drew, and Jennings' progress and 228-pound frame gives them reason to do just that.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.jaguars.com
- **STADIUM:** Jacksonville Municipal Stadium

Capacity: 67,164 **Turf:** Grass

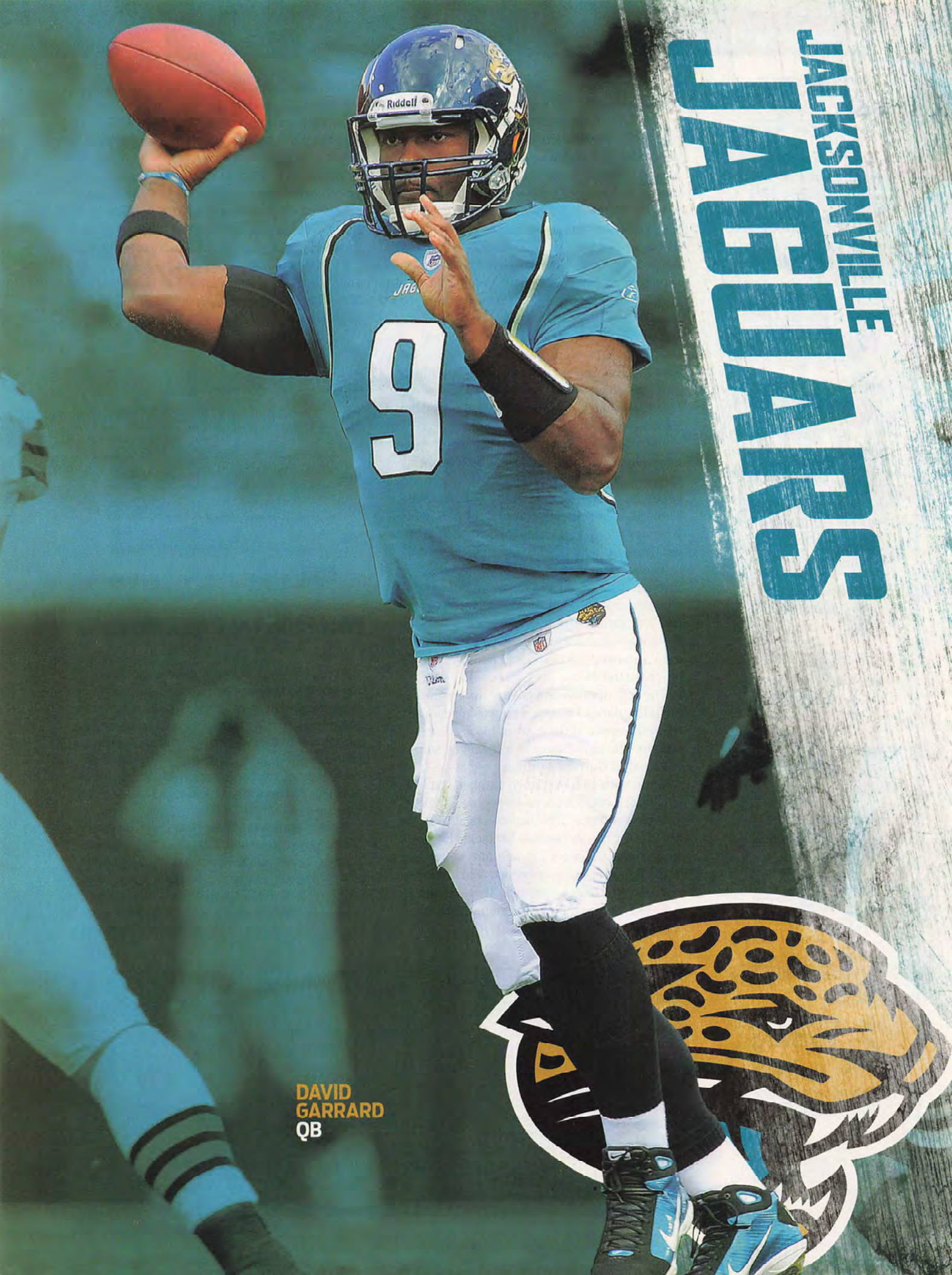
Tickets: 904-633-2000

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Jacksonville, Fla.; 904-333-6000

JAGUARS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Rashean Mathis *(2003-present)*	29	2	Aaron Beasley *(1996-2001)*	15	3	Donovin Darius *(1998-2006)*	14

FRANK DIBRANGO / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: ICON SMI


JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS
DAVID
GARRARD
QB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	TENNESSEE	SEPT. 11	1:00
WEEK 2	@ N.Y. JETS	SEPT. 18	1:00
WEEK 3	@ CAROLINA	SEPT. 25	1:00
WEEK 4	NEW ORLEANS	OCT. 2	1:00
WEEK 5	CINCINNATI	OCT. 9	1:00
WEEK 6	@ PITTSBURGH	OCT. 16	1:00
WEEK 7	BALTIMORE	OCT. 24	8:30
WEEK 8	@ HOUSTON	OCT. 30	1:00
WEEK 9	OPEN		
WEEK 10	@ INDIANAPOLIS	NOV. 13	1:00
WEEK 11	@ CLEVELAND	NOV. 20	1:00
WEEK 12	HOUSTON	NOV. 27	1:00
WEEK 13	SAN DIEGO	DEC. 5	8:30
WEEK 14	TAMPA BAY	DEC. 11	1:00
WEEK 15	@ ATLANTA	DEC. 15	8:20
WEEK 16	@ TENNESSEE	DEC. 24	1:00
WEEK 17	INDIANAPOLIS	JAN. 1	1:00

SCORE — W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Running backs ▸ Jones-Drew, the face of the franchise, was en route to his best season in 2010 until a nagging knee injury forced him to miss the last two games. It marked the first time in his career that an injury sidelined him. Jones-Drew still finished with 1,324 yards and was named to a second consecutive Pro Bowl.

One concern going into this season is whether the knee injury and Jones-Drew's penchant to invite contact is a sign that he could start to wear down faster than in the past. Though Jones-Drew is only 26, running backs have a shorter shelf life and the Jaguars may want to better protect their most critical commodity.

To that end, don't be surprised if backup Rashad Jennings gets more than 84 carries this season. Jennings had two 100-yard games in 2010, including one in Jones-Drew's absence. Deji Karim can also be dangerous as a situational third-down back. **GRADE: A-**

Receivers ▸ This position is a prime example of why the Jaguars remain a work in progress. They don't have any receivers who scare anybody. The best of the bunch is Mike Thomas, a 2009 fourth-round draft pick who won a permanent starting job last season as he led the team with 66 catches and 820 yards.

The Jaguars signed Jason Hill midway through last season and he showed flashes, catching passes of 48, 37 and 44 yards in the last four games. Hill was re-signed over Mike Sims-Walker and will be given a chance to earn a starting job that never materialized for him with the 49ers.

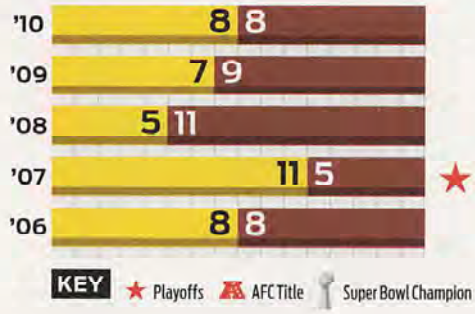
The rest of the receivers are unproven, including Jarett Dillard, who was placed on injured reserve at the start of his second season. The one shining star is Lewis, who emerged as Garrard's primary red-zone weapon with 10 touchdown catches last season, which tied a franchise record. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸ The Jaguars stabilized their line in 2010, mainly because left tackle Eugene Monroe was no longer a rookie and veteran guard Vince Manuwai was more effective in his second year removed from a torn ACL. That stability reflected in a vastly improved running game, as well as a reduction in sack totals from 44 to 38.

Still, this unit lacks a true difference-maker and its depth remains questionable. Center Brad Meester, the team's oldest player (34), is hanging on to his job more on guile than athleticism. The team is grooming Uche Nwaneri as Meester's replacement but remains hopeful that former undrafted free agent John Estes can be a long-term solution. The drafting of guard Will Rackley in the third round provides added depth in case Manuwai starts to decline.

The Jaguars will get back starting right tackle Eben Britton, who missed the last nine games in 2010 with a shoulder injury, but questions remain about his pass protection. **GRADE: B-**

5-YEAR RECORD: 39-41



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Jaguars)

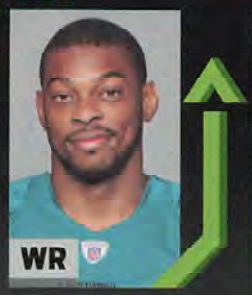
"I know it's been a while since they've had a winning season (2007), but when you play the Jaguars, you always know you're in for a physical game. They seem to change a lot of players around, especially on defense, and I don't think they've got a whole lot of talent overall, but they're always physical. I guess it starts with their coach (Jack Del Rio). They're tough mentally, too, because they find ways to hang around and then win some close games with clutch plays or field goals. ...

"It seems like they're usually at their best in the division. (Maurice) Jones-Drew is their best player. Their tight end (Marcedes Lewis) really came on the last two years. He's become a huge threat. It seems like they're always looking to get rid of (quarterback David) Garrard, but he can get streaky-hot. They've got some good young offensive linemen, but they've got a lot of improving to do on defense."

FANTASY SPIN

Maurice Jones-Drew turned in his best per-game rushing stats last year despite a nagging knee injury. That injury required surgery, though, making MJD a risky first-round pick.

BUY



Mike Thomas

SELL

David Garrard

SLEEPER

Cecil Shorts

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

THE BOOK ON ...

MAURICE JONES-DREW

"He could be a Pro Bowl player on any team. He personifies the Jaguars' mental and physical toughness. I don't think there's anything he can't do. It's obvious from watching tape of them and playing them that, most of the time, he's the catalyst to what they do on offense, and what he brings to the table rubs off on the defense. ...

"He's the toughest back in the game to bring down. Players bounce off him like pinballs. The best way to contain him is to gang-tackle him, but even when you do stop him, he's likely to just bounce off a defensive player, bounce outside and go the distance. He can hurt a defense so many ways. He's got power and speed as a runner. He's a good receiver. And if they still used him on returns, he'd be one of the best doing that, too."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	341.2	15
Rushing	149.7	3
Passing	191.6	27
Scoring	353	18
Punt Returns	10.0	18
Kick Returns	23.8	12
Red Zone TD %	63.0	3
Total Defense	371.8	28
Against Rush	121.6	22
Against Pass	250.2	28
Points Allowed	419	27
Interceptions	13	23t
Sacks	26	30t
Turnover Diff.	-15	31

THE STAR-LEDGER / US PRESSWIRE

DEFENSE

Jacksonville's defense has been a serious problem for three years. The team's league ranking has dropped from 23rd in 2008 to a franchise-worst 28th last season in which the Jaguars allowed a team record 419 points. Jacksonville also tied for last in the NFL with only 18 takeaways.

A suspect pass rush, combined with pitiful secondary play and a shaky linebacker corps, have made the Jaguars easy pickings for even average quarterbacks. The Jaguars were able to land only two mid-round players (safety Chris Prosinski and cornerback Rod Issac) in the draft, so they'll have to upgrade this unit in free agency. With Del Rio finally turning over play-calling to third-year defensive coordinator Mel Tucker, it will be interesting to see if the Jaguars can help the secondary by turning up the heat on the quarterback.

Defensive line ▸ With the rapid development of defensive tackles Terrance Knighton and 2010 first-round draft pick Tyson Alualu, the Jaguars should be a much-improved unit at the line of scrimmage. A key component is having proven veteran pass rusher Aaron Kampman, who suffered another torn ACL and missed the final eight games last season, healthy for the entire year. Kampman is the undisputed leader of the defense, and his presence was sorely missed after he went down.

Jeremy Mincey did a credible job as a replacement, but the Jaguars need more pressure on the quarterback than they've been getting in recent years. End Derrick Harvey, a 2008 first-round pick, has been

a huge disappointment and will likely struggle to make this year's roster as a backup. Austen Lane, Larry Hart and Aaron Morgan will contend for jobs as situational pass rushers.

D'Anthony Smith, a 2010 third-round draft pick who never played last season due to a training camp injury, is now ready to return and battle C.J. Mosley, Leger Douzable and Nate Collins for backup roles. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers ➤ If the Jaguars could ever get close to the production out of this entire group that strongside linebacker Daryl Smith provides them, then this defense might start dictating tempo instead of always being on its heels. With Knighton commanding so many double-teams, the Jaguars hoped acquiring Kirk Morrison in a draft-day trade from Oakland last year would make this position more of a force, but that never materialized.

Morrison and weakside linebacker Justin Durant are in limbo as free agents once a collective bargaining agreement is reached. Durant missed six games last season with ankle and groin injuries, so the team is unlikely to pursue him.

Another problem for the Jaguars is none of their young linebackers—Russell Allen, Kyle Bosworth, Alvin Bowen or Jacob Cutrera—are viewed as long-term-starter material. Allen has started nine games the past two seasons, but lacks the speed to adequately fill that role. Bosworth, nephew of Brian Bosworth, has the physical tools, speed and hip strength to be a future asset, but he never played a down last season due to a hamstring injury. **GRADE: D+**

Secondary ➤ No unit has struggled on a more consistent basis than the pass defense in recent seasons. Every starter in the secondary has been the object of derision from fans or spent time in Del

DRAFT REPORT

The Jaguars stepped up and went for quarterback **Blaine Gabbert** with the 10th overall pick. While he's not an elite, franchise-type QB, he should be good enough to justify the high draft spot. Gabbert is an underrated athlete who has a strong arm and is an accurate passer, which means he'll do well enough in the NFL.

The Jags reached in Round 3 to get guard **Will Rackley**, who has the talent to become a starter in the NFL but might have a hard time adjusting to the competition after a collegiate career at FCS Lehigh. Receiver **Cecil Shorts** was a great choice in Round 4. He is a better receiver than Pierre Garçon was when he came out of Mount Union. Shorts is tall and athletic and has many of the tools to develop into a productive starter.

Gabbert

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	10	Blaine Gabbert	QB	6-4	234	Missouri
3	12	Will Rackley	G	6-4	303	Lehigh
4	17	Cecil Shorts	WR	5-11	205	Mount Union
4	24	Chris Prosinski	FS	6-1	211	Wyoming
5	16	Rod Issac	CB	5-11	196	Middle Tennessee

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	24-17	Denver Broncos
09/19	L	13-38	San Diego Chargers
09/26	L	3-28	Philadelphia Eagles
10/03	W	31-28	Indianapolis Colts
10/10	W	36-26	Buffalo Bills
10/18	L	3-30	Tennessee Titans
10/24	L	20-42	Kansas City Chiefs
10/31	W	35-17	Dallas Cowboys
11/14	W	31-24	Houston Texans
11/21	W	24-20	Cleveland Browns
11/28	L	20-24	New York Giants
12/05	W	17-6	Tennessee Titans
12/12	W	38-31	Oakland Raiders
12/19	L	24-35	Indianapolis Colts
12/26	L	17-20	Washington Redskins
01/02	L	17-34	Houston Texans

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones-Drew	299	1324	4.4	37	5
Jennings	84	459	5.5	74	4
Garrard	66	279	4.2	25	5
Karim	35	160	4.6	15	0
Thomas	12	114	9.5	33	0
Edwards	9	34	3.8	14	0
Miller	2	9	4.5	8	0
Bouman	2	8	4.0	6	0
Jones	2	4	2.0	3	0
McCown	1	4	4.0	4	0
JACKSONVILLE	**512**	**2395**	**4.7**	**74**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**416**	**1945**	**4.7**	**70**	**19**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Thomas	66	820	12.4	50	4
Lewis	58	700	12.1	42	10
Sims-Walker	43	562	13.1	39	7
Jones-Drew	34	317	9.3	75	2
Jennings	26	223	8.6	25	0
Miller	20	216	10.8	52	1
Jones	11	47	4.3	12	0
Hill	11	248	22.5	48	1
Underwood	8	111	13.9	22	0
Osgood	6	60	10.0	24	1
Karim	3	10	3.3	7	0
Potter	3	24	8.0	10	0
Bolen	1	15	15.0	15	0
Wilford	1	3	3.0	3	0
JACKSONVILLE	**291**	**3356**	**11.5**	**75**	**26**
OPPONENTS	**329**	**4004**	**12.2**	**67**	**28**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Garrard	366	236	2734	23	15
Edwards	49	26	280	1	3
Bouman	34	18	222	2	2
McCown	19	11	120	0	0
Jones-Drew	1	0	0	0	1
JACKSONVILLE	**469**	**291**	**3356**	**26**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**506**	**329**	**4193**	**28**	**13**

SACKS JACKSONVILLE 26, OPPONENTS 38

Mincey 5, Kampman 4, Knighton 4, Alualu 3.5, Smith 3.5, Harvey 2.5, Hart 1.5, Considine 1, Middleton 1

CHRIS TROTMAN / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Bouman, Todd	QB	6-2	236	8/1/72	12	St. Cloud State
5 Edwards, Trent	QB	6-4	231	10/30/83	5	Stanford
Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-4	234	10/15/89	0	Missouri
9 Garrard, David	QB	6-1	236	2/14/78	10	East Carolina
12 McCown, Luke	QB	6-4	217	7/12/81	8	Louisiana Tech

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Baldridge, Daniel	T	6-8	311	10/21/85	1	Marshall
73 Britton, Eben	T	6-6	310	10/14/87	3	Arizona
48 Cain, Jeremy	LS	6-1	245	3/24/80	6	Massachusetts
62 Estes, John	C	6-2	302	3/25/87	2	Hawaii
72 Haslam, Kevin	T	6-5	304	11/8/86	2	Rutgers
67 Manuwai, Vince	G	6-2	333	7/12/80	9	Hawaii
63 Meester, Brad	C	6-3	302	3/23/77	12	Northern Iowa
75 Monroe, Eugene	T	6-5	308	4/18/87	3	Virginia
77 Nwaneri, Uche	G	6-3	318	3/20/84	5	Purdue
Rackley, Will	G	6-5	303	10/11/89	0	Lehigh
66 Smiley, Justin	G	6-3	310	11/11/81	8	Alabama
60 Vierling, Bradley	C	6-3	290	5/18/86	1	Vanderbilt
68 Whimper, Guy	T	6-5	302	5/21/83	6	East Carolina

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Bolen, Brock	RB	6-0	233	3/24/85	2	Louisville
32 Jones-Drew, Maurice	RB	5-7	208	3/23/85	6	UCLA
23 Jennings, Rashad	RB	6-1	228	3/26/85	3	Liberty
33 Jones, Greg	RB	6-1	254	5/9/81	8	Florida State
35 Karim, Deji	RB	5-8	209	11/18/86	2	Southern Illinois
24 Owens, Montell	RB	5-10	225	5/4/84	6	Maine

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
87 Dillard, Jarett	WR	5-10	187	12/21/85	3	Rice
83 Hill, Jason	WR	6-0	202	2/20/85	5	Washington State
Hughes, Nate	WR	6-2	195	1/18/85	3	Alcorn State
89 Lewis, Marcedes	TE	6-6	275	5/19/84	6	UCLA
17 Matthews, John	WR	6-0	197	7/19/86	2	San Diego
86 Miller, Zach	TE	6-4	245	10/4/84	3	Nebraska-Omaha
81 Osgood, Kassim	WR	6-5	220	5/20/80	9	San Diego State
88 Potter, Zach	TE	6-7	280	5/4/86	2	Nebraska
Shorts, Cecil	WR	5-11	205	12/22/87	0	Mount Union
80 Thomas, Mike	WR	5-8	198	6/4/87	3	Arizona
19 Underwood, Tiquan	WR	6-1	183	2/17/87	3	Rutgers
11 Sims-Walker, Mike	WR	6-2	214	11/21/84	5	Central Florida

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Alualu, Tyson	DE	6-3	304	5/12/87	2	California
98 Collins, Nate	DT	6-2	290	12/14/87	2	Virginia
69 Douzable, Leger	DT	6-4	284	5/31/86	4	UCF
59 Hart, Larry	DE	6-0	248	7/16/87	2	Central Arkansas
91 Harvey, Derrick	DE	6-5	268	11/9/86	4	Florida
74 Kampman, Aaron	DT	6-4	260	11/30/79	10	Iowa
96 Knighton, Terrance	DT	6-3	336	7/4/86	3	Temple
92 Lane, Austen	DE	6-5	274	11/9/87	2	Murray State
94 Mincey, Jeremy	DE	6-3	270	12/14/83	3	Florida
90 Mosley, C.J.	DT	6-3	305	8/6/83	7	Missouri
95 Smith, D'Anthony	DT	6-2	298	6/9/88	2	Louisiana Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
41 Brackenridge, Tyron	CB	5-11	189	6/30/84	4	Washington State
22 Carey, Don	CB	5-11	192	2/14/87	3	Norfolk State
37 Considine, Sean	S	6-0	212	12/17/82	7	Iowa
21 Cox, Derek	CB	6-1	190	9/22/86	3	William & Mary
36 Greene, Courtney	S	6-0	212	11/23/86	3	Rutgers
34 Hamlin, Mike	S	6-2	218	11/21/85	3	Clemson
Issac, Rod	CB	5-11	196	2/20/89	0	Middle Tennessee
31 Jones, David	CB	6-0	197	9/19/85	5	Wingate
27 Mathis, Rashean	CB	6-1	193	8/27/80	9	Bethune-Cookman
30 McGee, Scotty	CB	5-8	182	12/4/86	2	James Madison
29 Middleton, William	CB	5-11	194	7/28/86	3	Furman
Prosinski, Chris	S	6-1	201	4/28/87	0	Wyoming
20 Wheatley, Terrence	CB	5-9	185	5/5/85	4	Colorado
Whitehead, Terrell	S	6-1	194	9/18/88	2	Norfolk State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Allen, Russell	LB	6-3	234	5/5/86	3	San Diego State
51 Bosworth, Kyle	LB	6-1	236	11/21/86	2	UCLA
54 Bowen, Alvin	LB	6-1	222	12/24/83	2	Iowa State
58 Cutrera, Jacob	LB	6-3	238	5/18/88	2	LSU
56 Durant, Justin	LB	6-1	240	9/20/85	5	Hampton
97 Morgan, Aaron	LB	6-4	238	12/30/88	2	Louisiana-Monroe
55 Morrison, Kirk	LB	6-2	240	2/19/82	7	San Diego State
53 Norris, Slade	LB	6-3	245	10/25/85	2	Oregon State
53 Smith, Bryan	LB	6-2	250	11/29/83	4	McNeese State
52 Smith, Daryl	LB	6-2	249	3/14/82	8	Georgia Tech

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Podlesh, Adam	P	5-11	200	8/11/83	5	Maryland
10 Scobee, Josh	K	6-1	210	6/23/82	8	Louisiana Tech

JACK DEL RIO, Head coach

Dirk Koetter, offensive coordinator; **Mel Tucker,** defensive coordinator; **Russ Purnell,** special teams coordinator; **Rob Boras,** tight ends; **Earnest Byner,** running backs; **Johnny Cox,** wide receivers; **Joe Cullen,** defensive line; **Mark Duffner,** linebackers; **Andy Heck,** offensive line; **Nate Kaczor,** assistant special teams; **Thom Kaumeyer,** assistant defensive backs; **Mike Sheppard,** quarterbacks; **Cory Undlin,** defensive backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

OT Jordan Black (FA), **WR Mike Sims-Walker** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JACK DEL RIO

Del Rio is a gambler by nature, going for it on fourth down more times (46) the past two years than any coach in the NFL except Kansas City's Todd Haley. Part of the reason, though he'd never admit it, was Del Rio likely didn't trust his defense to get the opposing team off the field. If his defense makes significant improvement, it'll be interesting to see if he becomes more conservative in tight games.

Rio's doghouse. The unit's best player, cornerback Rashean Mathis, has only nine interceptions the past four years after recording 18 the previous three seasons. Derek Cox, the other starter, was benched for a couple games early last year, only to return when replacement David Jones became a nonfactor.

Both safety positions became such a problem that the Jaguars decided to stick with youngsters Courtney Greene and Don Carey in hopes they would show significant improvement as the season went on. It didn't happen, so the Jaguars drafted Wyoming's Chris Prosinski to challenge Carey at free safety. The 30-year-old Mathis is the most athletic cornerback, and the Jaguars are counting on him improving because he's in a contract year. The Jaguars also drafted Rod Issac, who is expected to at least compete with William Middleton for the nickel back job.

Tyrone Wheatley, Tyron Brackenridge, Terrell Whitehead and Jones are also in the mix, but they'll be hard-pressed to stay on the roster. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

This is probably the team's strongest overall group because it consistently wins the battle of field position, thanks to Pro Bowler Montell Owens and Kassim Osgood anchoring the return and coverage units. Kicker Josh Scobee, who has a big-time leg, made 14 consecutive field goals to start the season, including a 59-yarder to beat Indianapolis. However, Scobee did tail off, making only eight of his last 14 attempts. Adam Podlesh, who is more of a directional punter, allowed a league-low 19 punt returns in 2010. **GRADE: B+**

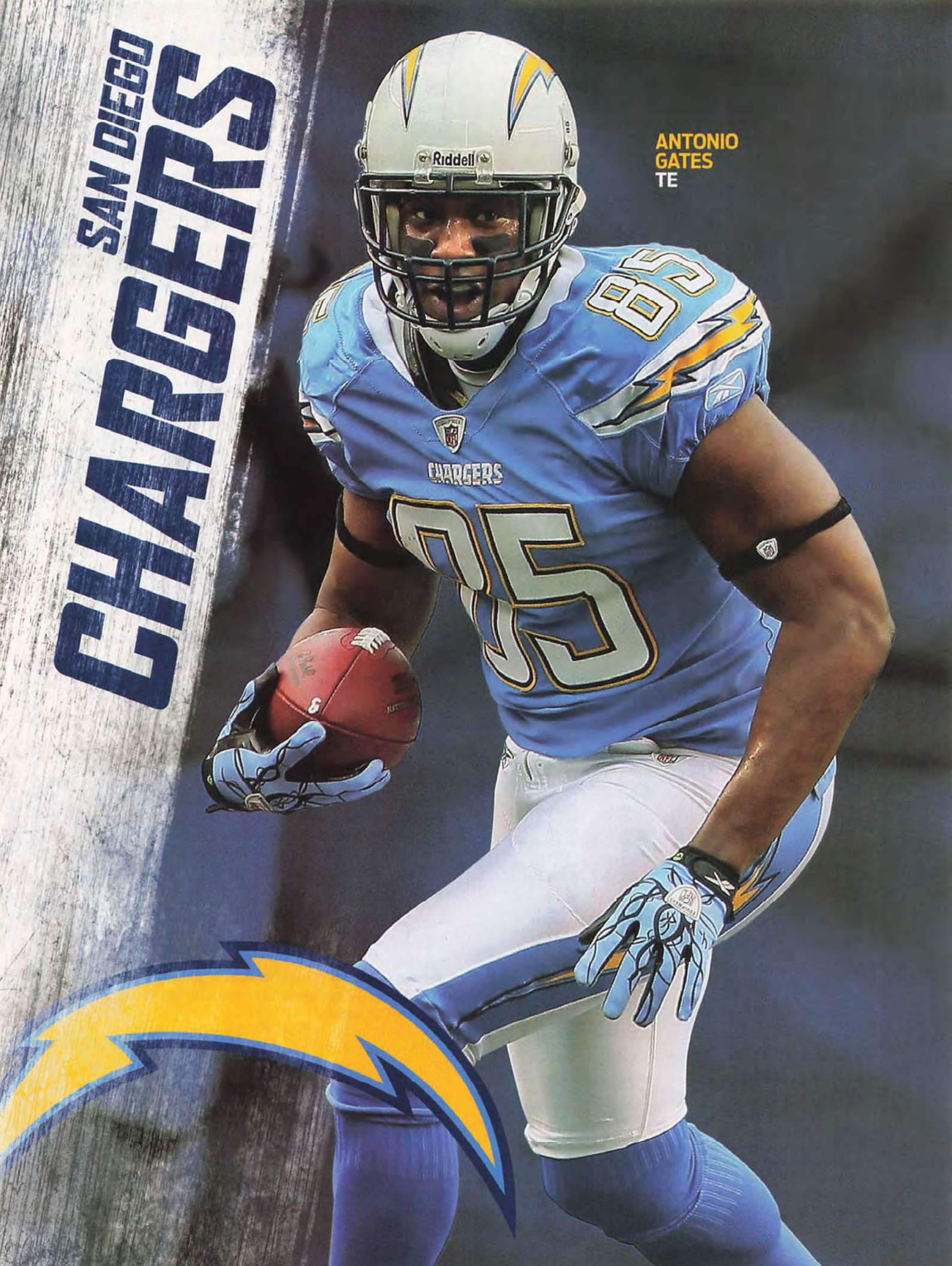
BOTTOM LINE

The Jaguars are about halfway through a rebuilding process since Smith took over as GM. He started by overhauling the tackle positions on both lines, and will likely proceed to bulldozing the back seven of a leaky defense through the draft and free agency.

Del Rio knows he's fortunate to still be employed, thanks to a lucrative contract that would have required a $10 million buyout and owner Wayne Weaver not wanting to overhaul the staff in an uncertain labor climate. The Jaguars' hopes in 2011 are tied to whether they can get the defense—a liability for too long—to do more of the heavy lifting.

72
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP


SAN DIEGO
CHARGERS
ANTONIO
GATES
TE
Riddell
CHARGERS
85

Potent offense led by Rivers should have Bolts charging to AFC West crown

AFC WEST

SN PICK **10-6**

1

By Kevin Acee San Diego Union-Tribune

Chargers general manager A.J. Smith often says for a team to be successful, it has to be lucky, good and injury-free. But San Diego was none of those in 2010. After using 74 different players in games throughout the year, the Chargers failed to win the AFC West for the first time in five seasons.

While the offseason brought a new defensive coordinator and a few new faces the team hopes will make a difference in its ongoing quest for a championship, the key to a postseason return will come by shoring up the sloppiness that cost San Diego at least three games a year ago.

OFFENSE

Even with its many injuries, holdouts and blunders, the Chargers' offense was capable of being a title team in 2010. Coach Norv Turner knows how to move the ball, and he has the quarterback to do it in almost any circumstance in Philip Rivers. Continued improvement from running back Ryan Mathews and a full season of health from wide receiver Vincent Jackson will make the league's No. 1 offense last year even more potent in 2011.

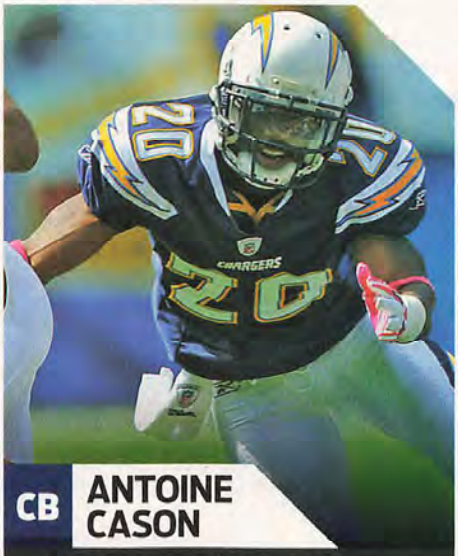
Quarterbacks ▸ Rivers has ascended to the elite as a quarterback who gives his team a chance to win every game. He completed passes to 17 different receivers last season and had his third straight 4,000-yard campaign.

His ability to inspire those around him with his words and actions is second only to his ability to dissect a defense and execute Turner's offense. Rivers' 103.8 passer rating since 2008 leads the NFL, and his touchdown-to-interception ratio (92 TDs, 33 picks) during that span is second only to Tom Brady. Moreover, he is 55-25 in his first five regular seasons.

Bringing back Billy Volek (an unrestricted free agent) is imperative, because the Chargers covet a veteran they can rely on if Rivers goes down. And Volek has been in San Diego since 2006, so he knows the system. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸ As long as Mathews and Mike Tolbert stop dropping the ball, the duo's production should help one of the league's top offenses. Mathews, the 12th overall pick in the 2010 draft, struggled through a rookie season of injury and fumbles. He cost the Chargers the season opener with a crucial fumble and then suffered a high-ankle sprain that hampered him into September. However, when he was able to play (158 carries for 678 yards and 7 TDs) Mathews showed uncanny balance and an elite-level burst and appeared to be learning how to follow

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



CB ANTOINE CASON

Cason grew as the 2010 season progressed, bouncing back from a rough game in midseason and allowing just 43.8 percent of the passes thrown his way to be caught over the final 10 games. If the Chargers improve their pass rush and new strong safety Bob Sanders is able to play the whole season, Cason has the potential for at least six picks while also being a shutdown corner.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 9-7 HOME: 6-2

- **ONLINE:** www.chargers.com
- **STADIUM:** Qualcomm Stadium

Capacity: 71,500 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 877-CHARGERS

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Chargers Park, San Diego; 858-874-4500

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Philip Rivers Billy Volek
FB	Jacob Hester Frank Summers
RB	Ryan Mathews Mike Tolbert
LT	Marcus McNeill Brandyn Dombrowski
LG	Kris Dielman Tyronne Green
C	Nick Hardwick Scott Mruczkowski
RG	Louis Vasquez Tyronne Green
RT	Jeromey Clary Stephen Schilling
TE	Antonio Gates Kris Wilson
WR	Vincent Jackson Patrick Crayton
WR	Malcom Floyd Seyi Ajirotutu
DEFENSE	
DE	Luis Castillo Vaughn Martin
NT	Antonio Garay Cam Thomas
DE	Corey Liuget Vaughn Martin
OLB	Shaun Phillips Brandon Lang
ILB	Kevin Burnett Jonas Mouton
ILB	Donald Butler James Holt
OLB	Larry English Antwan Applewhite
LCB	Quentin Jammer Shareece Wright
SS	Bob Sanders Darrell Stuckey
FS	Eric Weddle Steve Gregory
RCB	Antoine Cason Marcus Gilchrist
SPECIALISTS	
K	Nate Kaeding
P	Mike Scifres
KR	Marcus Gilchrist
PR	Antoine Cason
LS	David Binn

CHARGERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Gil Byrd *(1983-92)*	42	2	Dick Harris *(1960-65)*	29	3	Rodney Harrison *(1994-2002)*	26

JAYNE ONCEA / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: JEFF GROSS / GETTY IMAGES

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	MINNESOTA	SEPT. 11	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	@ NEW ENGLAND	SEPT. 18	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	KANSAS CITY	SEPT. 25	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	MIAMI	OCT. 2	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	@ DENVER	OCT. 9	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	OPEN			
WEEK 7	@ N.Y. JETS	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	@ KANSAS CITY	OCT. 31	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	GREEN BAY	NOV. 6	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	OAKLAND	NOV. 10	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	@ CHICAGO	NOV. 20	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 12	DENVER	NOV. 27	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	@ JACKSONVILLE	DEC. 5	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	BUFFALO	DEC. 11	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	BALTIMORE	DEC. 18	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	@ DETROIT	DEC. 24	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	@ OAKLAND	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

blocks and get through holes.

The Chargers plan to continue to limit Mathews' workload as long as they have a viable No. 2 tailback, which comes in the form of Tolbert. In his third season, Tolbert led the Chargers with 735 yards on 182 carries and 11 touchdowns and was effective in short-yardage situations. However, he too had ball-control issues, including two costly fumbles inside the 10-yard line in two losses.

The Chargers drafted UConn's Jordan Todman in the sixth round this year in case of an emergency. Jacob Hester surfaced as an adequate fullback in his third season and will get help from Frank Summers. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ The Chargers will have Jackson for one more season after putting their franchise tag on him. Any bad blood between him and management seems to have subsided, because the front office wanted him back for his reliability as a downfield threat. Malcom Floyd is a standout No. 2 receiver as long as he stays healthy.

San Diego also has the services of Patrick Crayton for one more season. The veteran is mostly a slot receiver but showed in 2010 that he can be effective on the outside as well. He may be used more there, as the Chargers drafted Vincent Brown in the third round and plan to give him a chance in the slot right away. Of course, Rivers' favorite target is tight end Antonio Gates, who is coming off a severe foot injury but is expected to be fine for 2011 and will continue to give the Chargers that rare threat over the middle. **GRADE: A**

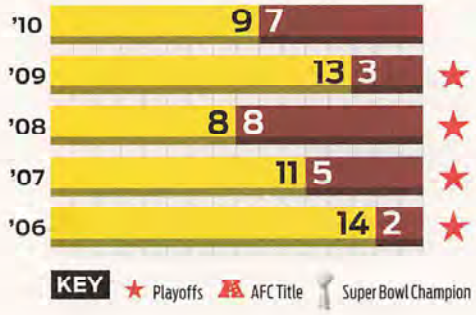
Offensive line ▸ Every starter from 2010 returns, though a high turnover rate at these positions limited the unit in run blocking and shined a light on its inconsistency. Still, the group has worked to accept its identity over the past two seasons. The line's top priority is to keep the franchise quarterback off his backside, and it does that well, especially with help from Rivers' quick release and pocket awareness.

Left tackle Marcus McNeill should be improved after a full season, while right tackle Jeromey Clary is among the hardest workers on the line and looks to be safe. But intrigue builds at right guard, as Louis Vasquez's various minor injuries have opened a door for Tyronne Green. Vasquez is the superior player, though Green is more consistent. The rocks of the line are inside, where left guard Kris Dielman books a Pro Bowl trip every year, and heady center Nick Hardwick is an extension of Rivers' brain. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

New coordinator Greg Manusky hopes to force additional action and make big plays more often on defense. It will be interesting to see how San Diego's defense operates without

5-YEAR RECORD: 55-25



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

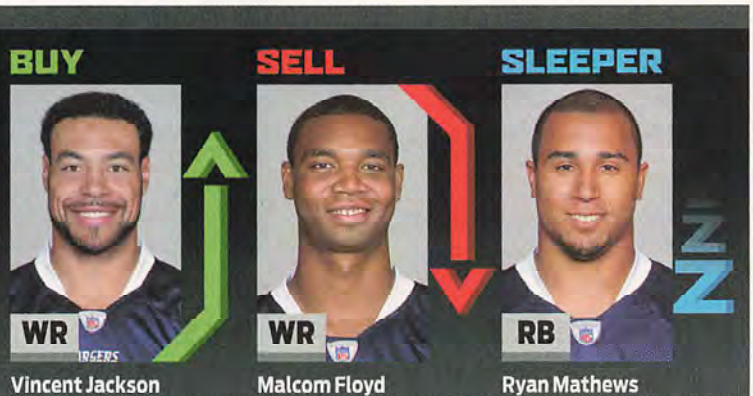
(an opponent breaks down the Chargers)

"When we played them, we felt it was closer than it needed to be and we gave them too many chances. ... But then you looked at the tape and they absolutely killed themselves. And you kept hearing about them doing it all season. They gave away points. (and) their special teams (were bad); that might never happen again. ...

"It's always been the knock on them. They don't have the ability to put you away. They can get up on you, they can run away from you, but where is the killer instinct? I watched them in the playoffs (after the 2009 season), and I saw sort of the same team when we played them (in '10)—mistakes. I don't know where that comes from. I want to question (coach) Norv Turner, but I know we teach our guys the same thing over and over, and they had a lot of new guys in and out."

FANTASY SPIN

Philip Rivers led the NFL with 4,710 passing yards in 2010, and did so despite missing Vincent Jackson for most of the year and with injuries limiting Antonio Gates and Malcom Floyd.



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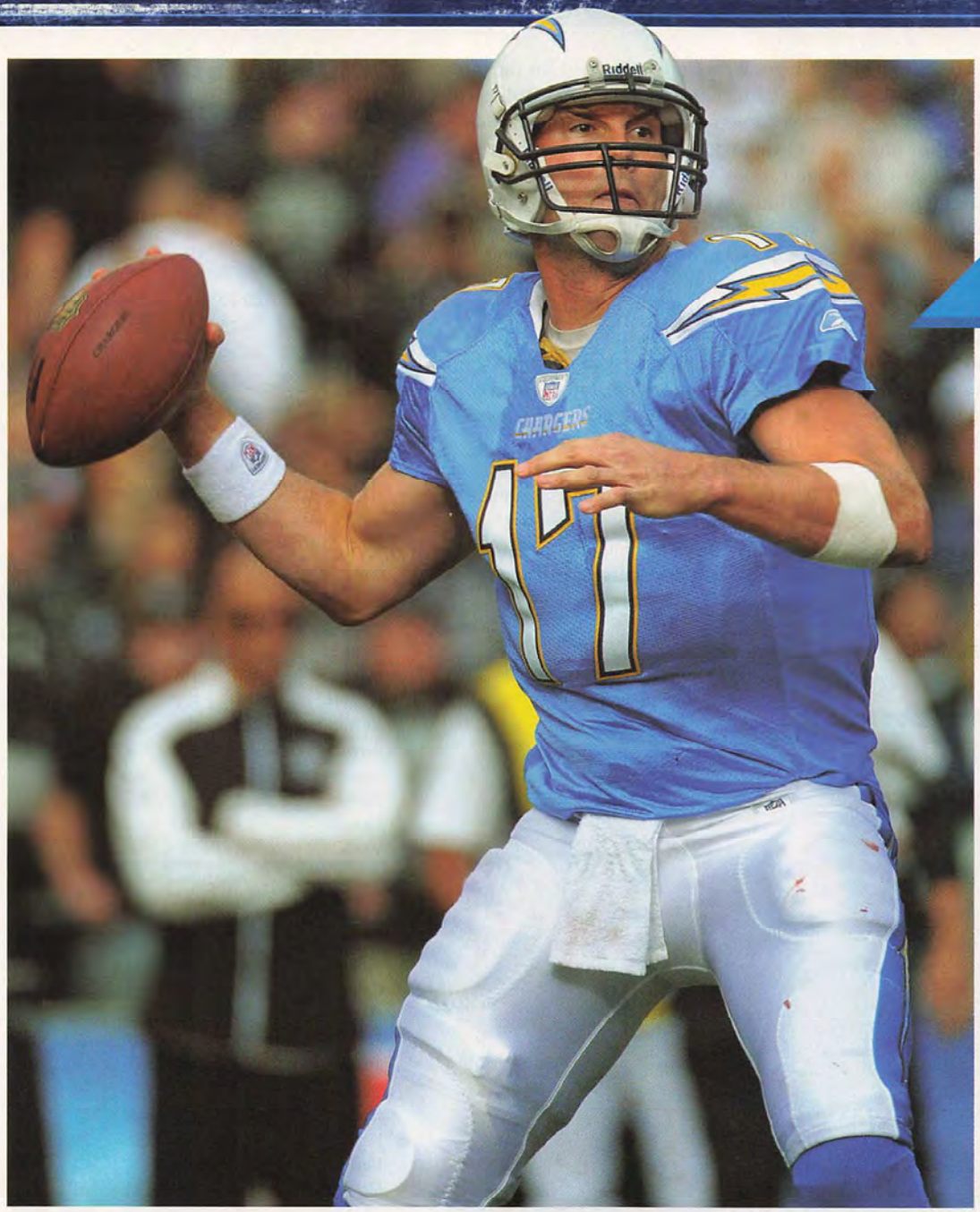


KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

PHILIP RIVERS

"He operates like Peyton (Manning) and those guys. He can decipher what's coming pretty quickly. Second, his release gets off relatively quickly. Very rarely does he get flustered and you end up sacking him. He's accurate. That's really what makes him dangerous. He puts the ball on his receiver so accurately—either it's a penalty or they catch it. ...

"Rivers, Peyton, (Tom) Brady, (Drew) Brees—those are the only guys who know where they're going with the ball, make great reads, and they're accurate like that. Now, if you can get to him, hit him, get in his head, he takes it personal. Most quarterbacks walk away. He takes it personal. That's his only issue. That's your only hope."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE	395.6	1
Rushing	113.1	15
Passing	282.4	2
Scoring	441	2
Punt Returns	10.5	13t
Kick Returns	24.0	10t
Red Zone TD %	55.9	12
TOTAL DEFENSE	271.6	1
Against Rush	93.8	29
Against Pass	195.9	1
Points Allowed	322	10
Interceptions	16	14t
Sacks	47	2t
Turnover Diff.	-6	23t

Ron Rivera (now head coach at Carolina), who turned San Diego's defense around. However, even though the Chargers finished No. 1 in total defense last season, no one in the front office was fooled, as a lot of that could be credited to luck and favorable matchups.

The Chargers were tied for second in the NFL in sacks last season, but most came in bunches when they were beating a team badly. They were the best defenders against passing yards, too, but with just 16 interceptions and few in big situations, that ranking is misleading.

Defensive line ▸ The Chargers' defensive line needs to improve its overall play and set the tone for a defense that sometimes broke under the pressure of stout offenses. San Diego believes the addition of Corey Liuget, a 2011 first-round draft pick, will add a physical element to the line and make everyone else better.

While the primary role of this group is to set up the linebackers, the line was too often ineffective in one-on-one matchups and could not make stops when it mattered most. Liuget will replace Jacques Cesaire at right end to give left end Luis Castillo some relief so he can make more plays.

Of course, it starts inside with the 3-4, and the Chargers found a scrap-heap gem in nose tackle Antonio Garay. If Garay can stay healthy, which is dependent on Cam Thomas' continued improvement and ability to spell Garay, the Chargers will be outstanding.

Another key piece in the line's rotation is Vaughn Martin, who came out of the

Canadian college ranks two years ago and might be ready to turn his raw skills into impact plays. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸ Shaun Phillips has had outstanding seasons in 2009 and '10, but he played too many snaps in both campaigns and needs help to sustain his level of play. San Diego also must get more game-changing plays from its outside linebackers. Larry English missed half the season following foot surgery and played with screws in his foot when he was on the field. Now healthy, the Chargers expect him to pair with Phillips to become a disruptive force on the second level.

Kevin Burnett returns at middle linebacker, but Stephen Cooper is likely gone after four years in San Diego. With Cooper injured for most of 2010, Burnett took on a larger role as a field general and will have the burden of bringing along young Donald Butler and Jonas Mouton.

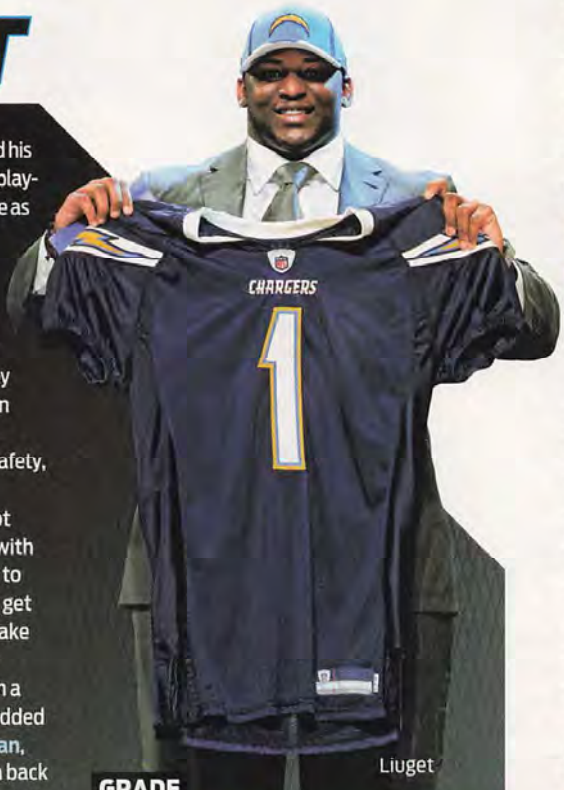
Butler was a third-round pick in 2010 who suffered a torn Achilles in training camp and missed his rookie season, while Mouton was drafted in the second round this year. The Chargers see Butler and Mouton as instinctual and physical players who can man the middle for many years, but there is a huge unknown about both going into 2011. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ▸ Eric Weddle returns to lead the defensive backs, and his annual improvement should be augmented by the free-agent signing of Bob Sanders—provided the Chargers can keep

DRAFT REPORT

General manager A.J. Smith continued his strong drafting streak with name-brand players expected to challenge for playing time as rookies. Defensive tackle **Corey Liuget** should immediately upgrade the Chargers' defensive line and overall pass rush. Cornerbacks **Marcus Gilchrist** and **Shareece Wright** were solid picks in the second and third round, respectively. They bring toughness and speed to the position and will also stand out on special teams. Gilchrist might also end up in the mix at safety, as he has experience at that spot.

Linebacker **Jonas Mouton** might not be well known, but he makes up for it with excellent pass coverage and an ability to chase down plays. **Vincent Brown** can get separation from tight coverage and make tough catches. Don't be shocked if he develops into a starting receiver within a year. In the sixth round, the Chargers added value with running back **Jordan Todman**, who could take over as the third-down back if San Diego doesn't re-sign Darren Sproles.



Liuget

GRADE B+

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	18	Corey Liuget	DT	6-2	298	Illinois
2	18	Marcus Gilchrist	CB	5-10	193	Clemson
2	29	Jonas Mouton	OLB	6-1	239	Michigan
3	18	Vincent Brown	WR	5-11	187	San Diego State
3	25	Shareece Wright	CB	5-11	182	USC
6	18	Jordan Todman	RB	5-9	203	Connecticut
6	36	Stephen Schilling	G	6-4	308	Michigan
7	31	Andrew Gachkar	LB	6-2	233	Missouri

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	L	14-21	Kansas City Chiefs
09/19	W	38-13	Jacksonville Jaguars
09/26	L	20-27	Seattle Seahawks
10/03	W	41-10	Arizona Cardinals
10/10	L	27-35	Oakland Raiders
10/17	L	17-20	St. Louis Rams
10/24	L	20-23	New England Patriots
10/31	W	33-25	Tennessee Titans
11/07	W	29-23	Houston Texans
11/22	W	35-14	Denver Broncos
11/28	W	36-14	Indianapolis Colts
12/05	L	13-28	Oakland Raiders
12/12	W	31-0	Kansas City Chiefs
12/16	W	34-7	San Francisco 49ers
12/26	L	20-34	Cincinnati Bengals
01/02	W	33-28	Denver Broncos

WON 9, LOST 7

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Tolbert	182	735	4.0	36	11
Mathews	158	678	4.3	31	7
Sproles	50	267	5.3	34	0
Hester	26	60	2.3	6	0
Rivers	29	52	1.8	14	0
Jackson	1	14	14.0	14	0
Brinkley	2	11	5.5	9	0
Naanee	3	-2	-0.7	5	0
Volek	6	-5	-1.7	0	0
SAN DIEGO	**457**	**1810**	**4.0**	**36**	**18**
OPPONENTS	**404**	**1500**	**3.7**	**56**	**14**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sproles	59	520	8.8	57	2
Gates	50	782	15.6	48	10
Floyd	37	717	19.4	55	6
Crayton	28	514	18.4	49	1
Tolbert	25	216	8.6	28	0
Naanee	23	371	16.1	59	1
Mathews	22	145	6.6	17	0
Hester	22	145	6.6	21	1
Davis	21	259	12.3	49	1
McMichael	20	221	11.1	28	2
Jackson	14	248	17.7	58	3
Ajirotutu	13	262	20.2	55	2
Washington	13	173	13.3	36	1
Wilson	6	73	12.2	37	0
Sperry	4	73	18.3	35	0
Banks	1	2	2.0	2	0
Goodman	1	25	25.0	25	0
SAN DIEGO	**359**	**4746**	**13.2**	**59**	**30**
OPPONENTS	**285**	**2845**	**10.0**	**71**	**18**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Rivers	541	357	4710	30	13
Scifres	1	1	28	0	0
Volek	1	1	8	0	0
Crayton	1	0	0	0	0
SAN DIEGO	**544**	**359**	**4746**	**30**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**488**	**285**	**3135**	**18**	**16**

SACKS SAN DIEGO 47, OPPONENTS 38

Phillips 11, Burnett 6, Garay 5.5, Barnes 4.5, Applewhite 3, English 3, Castillo 2.5, Thomas 2, Cesaire 1.5, Cooper 1, Johnson 1, Lang 1, Martin 1, Siler 1, Strickland 1, Tucker 1, Weddle 0.5, Nwagbuo 0.5

CHRIS TROTMAN / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
17 Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	12/08/81	8	N.C. State
7 Volek, Billy	QB	6-2	214	4/28/76	12	Fresno State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Binn, David	LS	6-3	228	2/06/72	18	California
66 Clary, Jeromey	T	6-6	320	11/05/83	5	Kansas State
58 Dearth, James	LS	6-4	265	1/22/76	11	Tarleton State
68 Dielman, Kris	G	6-4	320	2/03/81	9	Indiana
62 Dombrowski, Brandyn	T	6-5	323	4/03/85	3	San Diego State
69 Green, Tyronne	G	6-2	316	4/06/86	3	Auburn
61 Hardwick, Nick	C	6-4	305	9/02/81	8	Purdue
73 McNeill, Marcus	T	6-7	336	11/16/83	6	Auburn
63 Mruczkowski, Scott	C	6-5	310	4/05/82	7	Bowling Green
58 Neill, Ryan	LS	6-3	253	12/12/82	5	Rutgers
67 Otterson, Ryan	T	6-5	291	11/29/86	1	Wyoming
Richmond, Nic	T	6-8	309	5/01/87	1	TCU
Schilling, Stephen	T	6-4	308	7/21/88	0	Michigan
65 Vasquez, Louis	G	6-5	335	4/11/87	3	Texas Tech
47 Windt, Mike	LS	6-1	251	5/29/86	2	Cincinnati
Young, Eric	T	6-3	304	11/22/83	1	Tennessee

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Brinkley, Curtis	RB	5-9	208	9/20/85	2	Syracuse
22 Hester, Jacob	RB	5-11	235	5/08/85	4	LSU
34 Latsko, Billy	RB	5-10	233	2/16/84	1	Florida
24 Mathews, Ryan	RB	6-0	218	10/10/87	2	Fresno State
43 Sproles, Darren	RB	5-6	190	6/20/83	7	Kansas State
Summers, Frank	RB	5-10	240	9/06/85	1	UNLV
Todman, Jordan	RB	5-9	203	2/24/90	0	Connecticut
35 Tolbert, Mike	RB	5-9	243	11/23/85	4	Coastal Carolina
88 Wilson, Kris	FB	6-2	245	8/22/81	8	Pittsburgh

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
89 Ajirotutu, Seyi	WR	6-3	211	6/12/87	2	Fresno State
Brown, Vincent	WR	5-11	187	1/25/89	0	San Diego State
12 Crayton, Patrick	WR	6-0	205	4/07/79	8	NW Oklahoma State
84 Davis, Buster	WR	6-1	210	10/02/85	5	LSU
80 Floyd, Malcom	WR	6-5	225	9/08/81	6	Wyoming
85 Gates, Antonio	TE	6-4	260	6/18/80	9	Kent State
Goodman, Richard	WR	6-0	192	12/30/87	1	Florida State
83 Jackson, Vincent	WR	6-5	230	1/14/83	7	Northern Colorado
81 McMichael, Randy	TE	6-3	255	6/28/79	10	Georgia
Morris, Dennis	TE	6-2	253	2/15/87	0	Louisiana Tech
11 Naanee, Legedu	WR	6-2	220	9/16/83	5	Boise State
82 Sperry, Kory	TE	6-4	238	4/10/85	3	Colorado State
Walters, Bryan	WR	6-0	190	11/04/87	1	Cornell
87 Washington, Kelley	WR	6-3	217	8/21/79	9	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
90 Applewhite, Antwan	DE	6-3	258	12/31/85	4	San Diego State
93 Castillo, Luis	DT	6-3	290	8/04/83	7	Northwestern
74 Cesaire, Jacques	DE	6-2	295	8/30/80	9	Southern Connecticut State
52 English, Larry	DE	6-2	255	1/22/86	3	Northern Illinois
71 Garay, Antonio	DE	6-4	320	11/30/79	5	Boston College
Ihenacho, Carl	DE	6-2	255	5/28/88	0	San Jose State
96 Johnson, Travis	DT	6-3	311	4/26/82	7	Florida State
57 Lang, Brandon	DE	6-3	266	6/18/86	2	Troy
Liuget, Corey	DE	6-2	298	3/18/90	0	Illinois
92 Martin, Vaughn	DT	6-4	330	4/18/86	3	Western Ontario (Canada)
91 Nwagbuo, Ogemdi	DT	6-4	312	12/24/85	3	Michigan State
95 Phillips, Shaun	DE	6-3	250	5/13/81	8	Purdue
76 Thomas, Cam	DT	6-4	335	12/12/86	2	North Carolina

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
31 Carter, Tyrone	S	5-9	195	3/31/76	12	Minnesota
20 Cason, Antoine	CB	6-1	195	7/09/86	4	Arizona
Gilchrist, Marcus	CB	5-10	193	12/08/88	0	Clemson
28 Gregory, Steve	S	5-11	195	1/08/83	6	Syracuse
33 Hughes, Dante	CB	5-10	190	8/21/85	5	California
23 Jammer, Quentin	CB	6-0	204	6/19/79	10	Texas
27 Oliver, Paul	S	5-11	210	3/30/84	5	Georgia
Simmons, Traye	CB	5-9	182	1/18/87	1	Minnesota
30 Strickland, Donald	CB	5-10	185	11/24/80	8	Colorado
25 Stuckey, Darrell	S	5-11	208	6/16/87	2	Kansas
36 Teal, Quinton	S	6-0	205	3/08/84	5	Coastal Carolina
Wallace, C.J.	S	6-0	218	4/17/85	3	Washington
26 Watkins, Pat	S	6-5	220	12/18/82	6	Florida State
32 Weddle, Eric	S	5-11	200	1/04/85	5	Utah
Wright, Shareece	CB	5-11	182	4/08/87	0	USC

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
98 Barnes, Antwan	LB	6-1	251	10/19/84	5	Florida International
46 Beckwith, Darry	LB	6-0	242	5/15/87	1	LSU
99 Burnett, Kevin	LB	6-3	240	12/24/82	7	Tennessee
51 Butler, Donald	LB	6-1	248	10/17/88	2	Washington
54 Cooper, Stephen	LB	6-1	235	6/19/79	9	Maine
Gachkar, Andrew	LB	6-2	233	11/4/88	0	Missouri
53 Holt, James	LB	6-2	223	11/24/86	3	Kansas
Leman, Jeremy	LB	6-2	240	3/01/85	2	Illinois
49 Moore, Brandon	LB	6-1	240	1/16/79	7	Oklahoma
Mouton, Jonas	LB	6-1	239	3/17/88	0	Michigan
59 Siler, Brandon	LB	6-2	239	12/05/85	5	Florida
94 Tucker, Jyles	LB	6-3	258	9/18/83	5	Wake Forest
42 Wilson, Kion	LB	6-0	240	10/24/86	2	South Florida

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Kaeding, Nate	K	6-0	187	3/26/82	8	Iowa
Schmitt, Ricky	P	6-3	217	8/17/85	1	Shepherd
5 Scifres, Mike	P	6-2	221	10/08/80	9	Western Illinois

NORV TURNER, Head coach

Clarence Shelmon, offensive coordinator; **Greg Manusky,** defensive coordinator; **Rich Bisaccia,** special teams coach; **Cris Dishman,** asst. secondary; **Hal Hunter,** offensive line; **Don Johnson,** defensive line; **Charlie Joiner,** wide receivers; **Jason Michael,** tight ends; **John Pagano,** linebackers; **John Ramsdell,** quarterbacks; **Mike Sullivan,** offensive line; **Steven Wilks,** asst. head coach/secondary; **Greg Williams,** asst. linebackers; **Ollie Wilson,** running backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

S Bob Sanders (FA/Colts)

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

NORV TURNER

It's hard to argue that Turner hopes to survive in games, though that might be the case given his potent offense and ineffective defense. If new coordinator Greg Manusky and the team's offseason acquisitions better equip the defense, it might be time for Turner to go for the kill.

Sanders healthy. To do that, the team plans to assist Sanders (who is a force when on the field but has missed more games than he's played in his career) by limiting his reps each game.

For the secondary to be successful, 2010 fourth-round pick Darrell Stuckey will have to speed up his learning curve. Weddle has become a vocal leader—something made possible by his improved play and grasp of the defense. Provided Quentin Jammer has more left in his 32-year-old legs, the Chargers' cornerback duo of Jammer and Antoine Cason should again be among the best in the NFL. Cason led the Chargers with four interceptions last year and should be more comfortable in his second season as a starter.

The Chargers drafted two corners in 2011, one to shore up depth (Shareece Wright) and the other to play the nickel (Marcus Gilchrist). **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Last season, the Chargers had one of the NFL's worst coverage units. Four of their punts were blocked, including one deflection, and the opposition returned three kickoffs and a punt for touchdowns. San Diego's special teams have to be better in 2011. And since special teams cost the team at least two games last season, improvement should come easily and be noticeable.

Special teams coach Steve Crosby is out, and Rich Bisaccia was hired to take his place. Gilchrist will get a chance to be the primary kick return man, with Cason or Patrick Crayton filling in—particularly when ball security is paramount. Punter Mike Scifres will get a do-over after a frustrating season that left him wondering if he was going to get run over after every snap. Nate Kaeding was hampered by a leg injury but remains the most accurate active field goal kicker in the league. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

In 2010, the Chargers lost one game in which two blocked punts led to 15 points and a fumble at the goal line took away a chance for a touchdown. They had two kickoffs returned for touchdowns in another loss. They lost a fumble in the red zone and had a punt returned for a touchdown, which resulted in yet another loss.

For all the clamor over their defensive shortcomings, special teams and ball security were huge reasons the Chargers didn't make the playoffs in 2010. Should San Diego improve in those areas, this team could return to its winning ways in the AFC West and a berth in the postseason.

89
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

2 AFC WEST

SN PICK 9-7

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Jason Campbell Kyle Boller
FB	Marcel Reece
RB	Darren McFadden Michael Bush
LT	Jared Veldheer Mario Henderson
LG	Daniel Loper Langston Walker
C	Stefen Wisniewski Samson Satele
RG	Bruce Campbell Cooper Carlisle
RT	Joseph Barksdale Langston Walker
TE	Zach Miller Brandon Myers
WR	Louis Murphy Chaz Schilens
WR	Darrius Heyward-Bey Jacoby Ford
DEFENSE	
DE	Lamarr Houston Matt Shaughnessy
DT	Tommy Kelly Desmond Bryant
DT	Richard Seymour John Henderson
DE	Matt Shaughnessy Trevor Scott
SLB	Kamerion Wimbley Ricky Brown
MLB	Rolando McClain Sam Williams
WLB	Travis Goethel Quentin Groves
LCB	Stanford Routt Chris Johnson
SS	Tyvon Branch Mike Mitchell
FS	Hiram Eugene Stevie Brown
RCB	Chris Johnson Jeremy Ware
SPECIALISTS	
K	Sebastian Janikowski
P	Shane Lechler
KR	Jacoby Ford
PR	Jacoby Ford
LS	Jon Condo

Jackson needs immediate action for Raiders to break playoff drought

By Steve Corkran *Oakland Tribune*

Finishing with eight victories last season prompted coach Tom Cable to tell anyone who would listen that, "We're not losers anymore."

He was fired two days later.

Owner Al Davis promoted Hue Jackson from offensive coordinator to take Cable's place. Jackson pounced on the opportunity to show that he was hired to do more than finish .500.

"We're going to create an environment here for our players to do great, and that's what we're chasing," Jackson says. "We're chasing greatness. … My job is to do everything I can to take this team where we know we want to go, which is the Super Bowl."

OFFENSE

First-year offensive coordinator Al Saunders brings a wealth of experience to the Raiders, as well as a massive playbook for players to digest. His forte is identifying and maximizing the talents of his best players. For the Raiders, that means a heavy dose of rushing for running backs Darren McFadden and Michael Bush, a steady diet of passes to tight end Zach Miller, and increased action for receivers Jacoby Ford, Louis Murphy and Chaz Schilens. Saunders' biggest obstacle, however, is going to be finding a way to function in a system in which Jackson is calling the plays.

Quarterbacks ▸ Jackson and Davis have made it clear that Jason Campbell is the unquestioned starter, even though Campbell was benched twice last season and finished the year as the starter only because of an injury to Bruce Gradkowski. Campbell worked his way back into the coaching staff's good graces with a strong finish in the final six games, and the Raiders are confident that Campbell will build upon his late-season success.

In Campbell, Jackson has the kind of player who knows his role, doesn't mind being a complementary player when necessary and yet is talented enough to make big plays with his feet and his arm. Campbell is in the final year of his contract, so he has added incentive to play well.

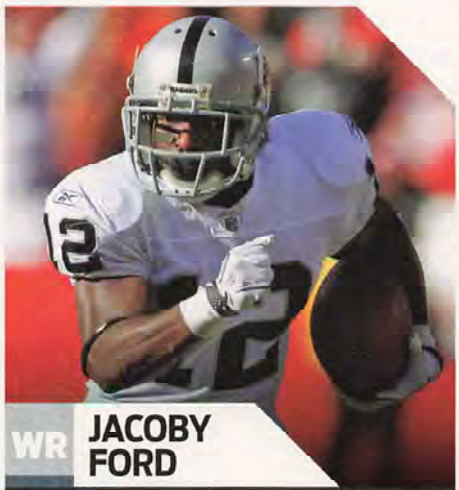
Veteran Kyle Boller gives Oakland a proven backup, allowing the team to finally believe its quarterback situation is solved, at least in the short term.

GRADE: B-

Running backs ▸ McFadden finally emerged as an elite tailback last season on the heels of two injury-plagued seasons in which he failed to distinguish himself as an every-down back. He rushed for 1,157 yards and averaged 5.2 yards while adding 47 receptions for 507 yards last year. Overall, he developed into the linchpin of Oakland's offensive attack, and his success relegated Bush to a complementary role.

Still, Bush used his 245-pound frame to amass 655 rushing yards and eight TDs

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



WR JACOBY FORD

The second-year player scored multiple touchdowns as a rusher, receiver and return specialist last season. Coach Hue Jackson is intent on taking advantage of Ford's speed, versatility and playmaking ability through more touches as a receiver and punt return man.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 8-8 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.raiders.com
- **STADIUM:** Oakland Coliseum

Capacity: 63,122 **Turf:** Grass

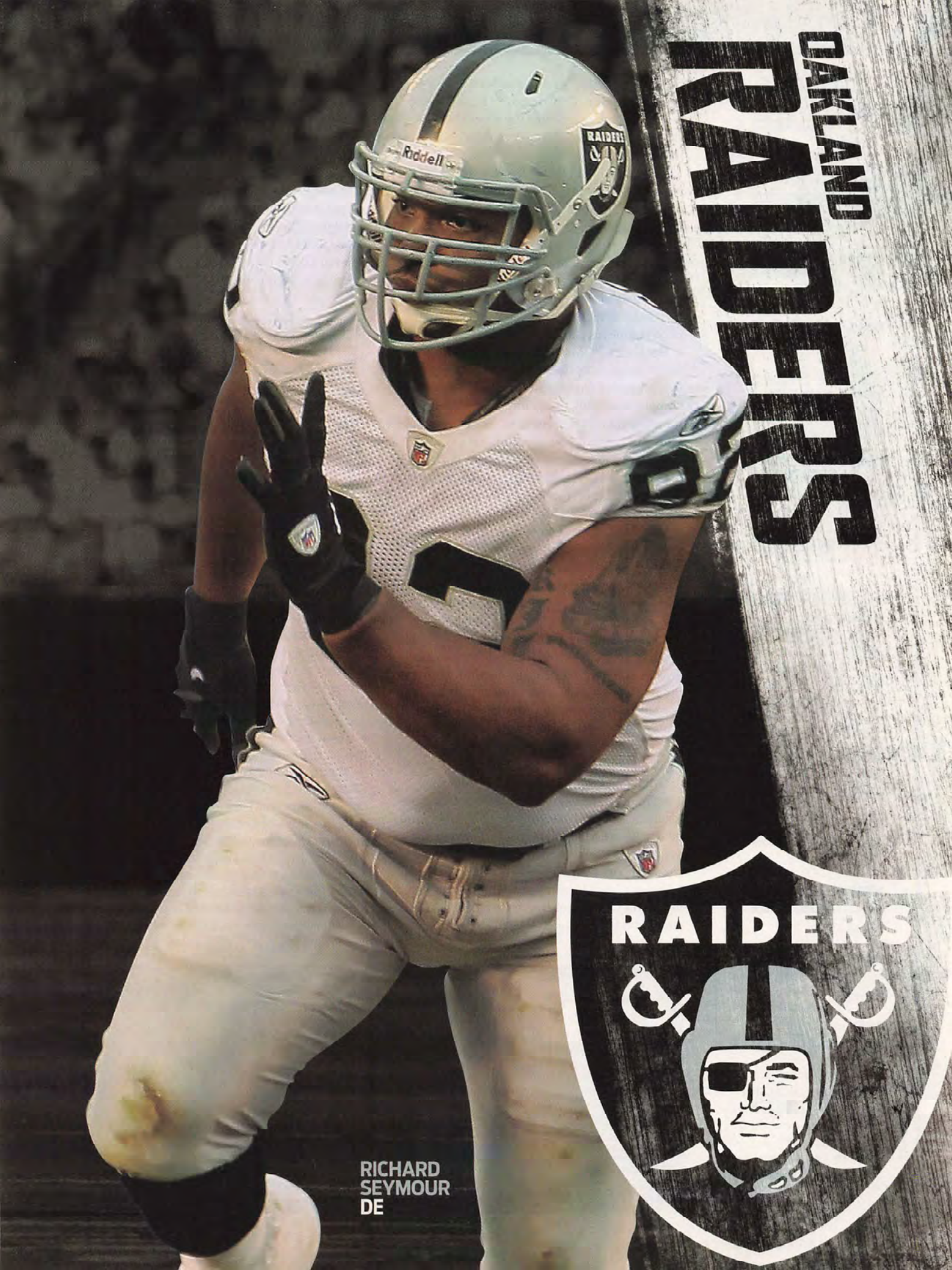
Tickets: 800-RAIDERS

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Napa Valley Training Camp, Napa Valley, Calif.; 510-864-5000

RAIDERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1t	Willie Brown *(1967-78)*	39	1t	Lester Hayes *(1977-86)*	39	3	Terry McDaniel *(1988-97)*	34

WD / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: JEFF GROSS / GETTY IMAGES


OAKLAND
RAIDERS
RAIDERS
RICHARD
SEYMOUR
DE

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ DENVER	SEPT. 12	10:15	W / L
WEEK 2	@ BUFFALO	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	N.Y. JETS	SEPT. 25	4:05	W / L
WEEK 4	NEW ENGLAND	OCT. 2	4:15	W / L
WEEK 5	@ HOUSTON	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	CLEVELAND	OCT. 16	4:05	W / L
WEEK 7	KANSAS CITY	OCT. 23	4:05	W / L
WEEK 8	OPEN			
WEEK 9	DENVER	NOV. 6	4:05	W / L
WEEK 10	@ SAN DIEGO	NOV. 10	8:20	W / L
WEEK 11	@ MINNESOTA	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	CHICAGO	NOV. 27	4:05	W / L
WEEK 13	@ MIAMI	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ GREEN BAY	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	DETROIT	DEC. 18	4:05	W / L
WEEK 16	@ KANSAS CITY	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	SAN DIEGO	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

in 2010 and help turn the Raiders' rushing attack into one of the league's best. McFadden and Bush will begin the season in the same roles, though Saunders won't hesitate to use the hot hand.

Fullback Marcel Reece developed into a dependable blocker, receiver and rusher last season. His experience as a wideout also gives the Raiders the ability to use him in the passing game more so they can create favorable matchups against slower defenders. The addition of speedster Taiwan Jones via the draft gives the Raiders another home-run threat in their backfield, though he's not likely to see much playing time his rookie season. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▸ Murphy led the Raiders' wideouts in receptions (41), yards (609) and touchdowns (2, tied with Ford) for the second straight year. Still, the Raiders are searching for a legitimate No. 1 receiver. Schilens is the most likely candidate, given his size, speed, sure hands and precise route running. However, Schilens has been injury-prone in his three-year NFL career. Therefore, it's more likely the Raiders will lean on Miller once again.

Miller led all teammates in receptions (60), yards (685) and touchdowns (5) last year despite missing several games with a foot injury. He has a knack for getting open, making the tough catch and coming up big in crucial situations.

Third-year receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey has yet to validate the Raiders' selection of him at No. 7 overall in 2009. He made strides last season and improved his production. However, the Raiders aren't in a position to wait for him to make a quantum leap. Draftees Denarius Moore and David Ausberry give the Raiders two other options as potential playmakers for their receiving corps. **GRADE: C+**

Offensive line ▸ First-year offensive line coach Bob Wylie is regarded as one of the finest teachers around. It's a good thing, too, because he will be asked to fill the void created by the departure of the three offensive line coaches from the past two seasons—Cable, Jim Michalczik and Chris Morgan—in addition to breaking in second-year player Bruce Campbell at right guard and rookie Stefen Wisniewski at center and improving the play of impressive second-year left tackle Jared Veldheer.

Wylie is also in charge of training the replacement for longtime left guard Robert Gallery and, perhaps, right tackle Langston Walker. Rookie Joseph Barksdale has a decent shot at starting right away if the Raiders don't re-sign Walker. Veldheer acquitted himself well once he cracked the starting lineup last year, while center Samson Satele solidified his standing as the line's anchor. Veteran Daniel Loper fared well in four games, stepping in for the injured Gallery last season,

5-YEAR RECORD: 24-56

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Raiders)

"The Raiders made great strides last season, and Hue Jackson's influence in that resurgence can't be overstated. They still do the same things defensively. It's offensively where you see the difference. Jackson found a way to use (Darren) McFadden where he could get the best possible results. In turn, he took the pressure off his offensive line and Jason Campbell. The Raiders are a wide receiver or two away from having a potent offense. The ones they have are complementary players, at best. ...

"It will be interesting to see how Jackson handles being the (head) coach. He should do fine because he respects Al Davis and knows what Davis wants offensively and defensively. One thing's for sure: The Raiders aren't a pushover any longer. I'm not so sure that they're talented enough to contend for a Super Bowl title, but they are headed in the right direction for the first time in a long time. It still seems as if the Raiders are at least another year away from being a serious contender, but now is the time to challenge for the division because none of those teams is without flaws."

FANTASY SPIN

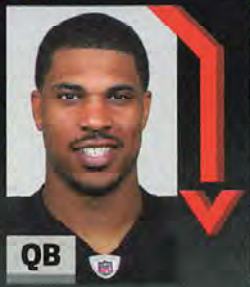
Darren McFadden finally showed in his third season the type of multi-purpose threat he can be by producing statistics worthy of a No. 1 fantasy back. The only question with him is durability.

BUY

K

Sebastian Janikowski

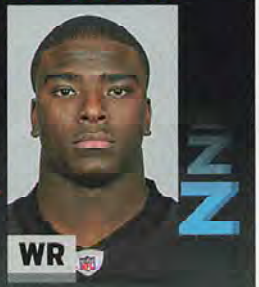
SELL



QB

Jason Campbell

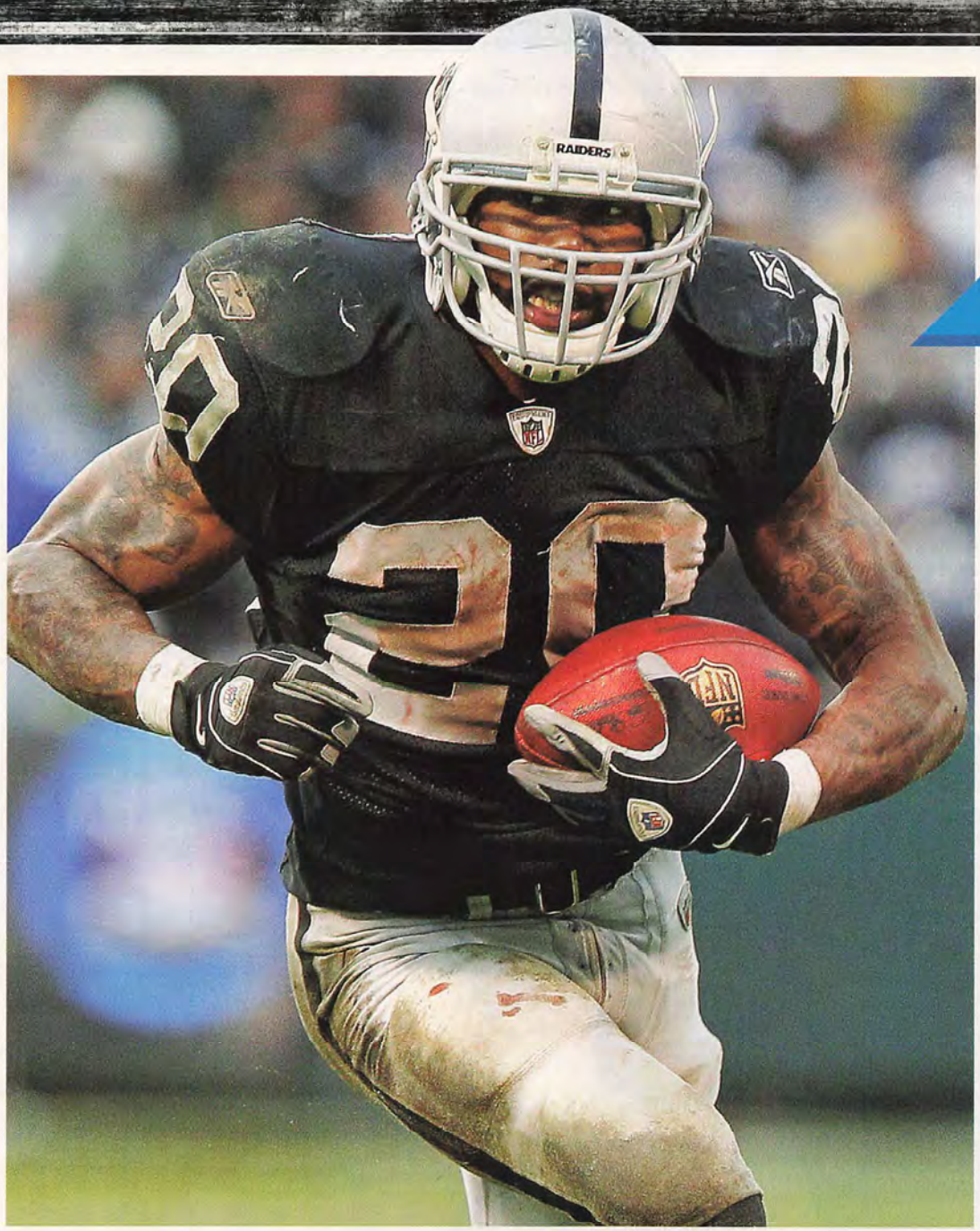
SLEEPER



WR

Jacoby Ford

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



RIC TAPIA / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

DARREN McFADDEN

"McFadden finally looks like the player we saw when he was so dominant in college (at Arkansas). His first two years, he looked timid, afraid of contact and lost in that offense. Now he's one of the top backs in the league. His success is critical to that offense because Jason Campbell isn't the type of quarterback who can take over a game very often. ...

"The thing that gets overlooked, too, is the impact McFadden has on the rest of his team. He softens up the defense for Michael Bush. The defense can't pin back its ears and get after Campbell, and the Raiders' defense isn't on the field as often as it was in past seasons. There's still some question as to whether McFadden can make it through an entire season without getting injured and whether he can have another strong season when teams are geared toward stopping him."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	354.6	10
Rushing	155.9	2
Passing	198.8	22
Scoring	410	6
Punt Returns	7.0	26t
Kick Returns	22.5	16
Red Zone TD %	52.1	17
Total Defense	322.8	11
Against Rush	133.6	29
Against Pass	189.2	2
Points Allowed	371	20
Interceptions	12	25t
Sacks	47	2t
Turnover Diff.	-2	17

and is the leading candidate for the starting job in 2011.

The Raiders are thin on experience with the backups and have a long way to go before their offensive line can be considered a cohesive unit. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

Coordinator Chuck Bresnahan is back for a second stint with the Raiders. He is well-versed in what Davis wants from the defense, which is man-to-man coverage on the outside, a four-man rush most downs and the occasional blitz. The linebackers and safeties will be used mostly in run support and pass coverage.

Defensive line > Mike Waufle transformed the Raiders' line from an inconsistent unit into a formidable one in his first season as defensive line coach. He moved tackle Richard Seymour inside full time, convinced tackle Tommy Kelly to lose more than 30 pounds and work harder, improved the effectiveness of ends Matt Shaughnessy and backup tackle Desmond Bryant and turned rookie end Lamarr Houston into an impact player.

End Trevor Scott switched back from outside linebacker and produced well, as expected. As a result, the Raiders now feature one of the league's best lines in terms of pressuring the quarterback on a consistent basis. The next step for Waufle is finding a way to get his linemen to be more consistent against the run. Too often, the Raiders allow a long run that turns a strong outing into a disappointing one by changing the complexion of a game. **GRADE: B+**

Linebackers ➤ The Raiders made a complete overhaul of their linebacking corps a top priority last season. They selected Rolando McClain with the eighth overall pick, traded mainstay Kirk Morrison two days later and inserted McClain into the starting lineup. Oakland also traded for Kamerion Wimbley and converted him from end to strongside linebacker and developed rookie Travis Goethel into a starter on the weak side.

All three players provided an upgrade in the linebacking corps, and the defense showed improvement as a result.

McClain improved in just about every game last season and showed he has the talent to be a fixture for years to come. Wimbley led the Raiders with nine sacks in 2010 and gives the team a versatile player who is effective against the run. Goethel overcame a back injury in training camp and played well enough for the Raiders to move Scott back to end. Backups Sam Williams, Quentin Groves and Ricky Brown give the Raiders desired depth. **GRADE: B-**

Secondary ➤ Stanford Routt received a three-year contract that makes him one of the league's highest-paid cornerbacks. The move signified that the Raiders are prepared to move on without three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha for the first time since 2002, which places a ton of pressure on Chris Johnson, Jeremy Ware, Walter McFadden, DeMarcus Van Dyke and Chimdi Chekwa to fill the sizable void. Routt also will be under more pressure without Asomugha around, because he will be assigned to

DRAFT REPORT

The Raiders made a good choice in selecting center **Stefen Wisniewski**. He'll upgrade the line with his technique and deceptive strength. However, after selecting Wisniewski, the Raiders began their traditional reaches starting with cornerback **DeMarcus Van Dyke** in the third round. He rocketed up draft boards after posting the fastest 40-yard-dash time at the NFL Combine, but he was benched halfway through his senior season and is a huge gamble.

With its other third-round pick, Oakland took offensive tackle **Joseph Barksdale**, who can develop into a starter if he improves his athleticism. In Rounds 4 and 5, the Raiders found some interesting prospects in running back **Taiwan Jones**, a speedy player with a thin frame for the position, and **Denarius Moore**, a wide receiver who had a breakout 2010 season at Tennessee and could develop at the next level.

Wisniewski

GRADE C-

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
2	16	Stefen Wisniewski	C	6-3	313	Penn State
3	17	DeMarcus Van Dyke	CB	6-1	168	Miami (Fla.)
3	28	Joseph Barksdale	OT	6-4	325	LSU
4	16	Chimdi Chekwa	CB	5-11	190	Ohio State
4	28	Taiwan Jones	RB	6-0	194	Eastern Washington
5	17	Denarius Moore	WR	6-0	194	Tennessee
6	16	Richard Gordon	TE	6-4	265	Miami (Fla.)
7	38	David Ausberry	WR	6-4	243	USC

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	13-38	Tennessee Titans
09/19	W	16-14	St. Louis Rams
09/26	L	23-24	Arizona Cardinals
10/03	L	24-31	Houston Texans
10/10	W	35-27	San Diego Chargers
10/17	L	9-17	San Francisco 49ers
10/24	W	59-14	Denver Broncos
10/31	W	33-3	Seattle Seahawks
11/07	W	23-20	Kansas City Chiefs
11/21	L	3-35	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/28	L	17-33	Miami Dolphins
12/05	W	28-13	San Diego Chargers
12/12	L	31-38	Jacksonville Jaguars
12/19	W	39-23	Denver Broncos
12/26	L	26-31	Indianapolis Colts
01/02	W	31-10	Kansas City Chiefs

WON 8, LOST 8

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McFadden	223	1157	5.2	57	7
Bush	158	655	4.1	30	8
Campbell	47	222	4.7	24	1
Ford	10	155	15.5	71	2
Reece	30	122	4.1	31	1
Heyward-Bey	4	48	12.0	30	0
Murphy	1	43	43.0	43	0
Gradkowski	12	41	3.4	12	0
Cartwright	9	22	2.4	10	0
Boller	7	18	2.6	15	0
Bennett	2	11	5.5	6	0
Satele	1	0	0.0	0	0
OAKLAND	**504**	**2494**	**4.9**	**71**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**474**	**2138**	**4.5**	**76**	**14**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Z. Miller	60	685	11.4	43	5
McFadden	47	507	10.8	67	3
Murphy	41	609	14.9	70	2
Heyward-Bey	26	366	14.1	69	1
Reece	25	333	13.3	73	3
Ford	25	470	18.8	52	2
Bush	18	194	10.8	55	0
Myers	12	80	6.7	16	0
Higgins	10	103	10.3	26	0
Schilens	5	40	8.0	11	1
N. Miller	3	40	13.3	32	0
Bennett	2	9	4.5	6	0
Barnes	2	8	4.0	6	1
Figurs	2	17	8.5	11	0
Cartwright	1	10	10.0	10	0
OAKLAND	**279**	**3471**	**12.4**	**73**	**18**
OPPONENTS	**249**	**3027**	**12.2**	**57**	**29**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Campbell	329	194	2387	13	8
Gradkowski	157	83	1059	5	7
Boller	4	2	25	0	1
McFadden	1	0	0	0	0
OAKLAND	**491**	**279**	**3471**	**18**	**16**
OPPONENTS	**470**	**249**	**3319**	**29**	**12**

SACKS OAKLAND 47, OPPONENTS 44

Wimbley 9, Kelly 7, Shaughnessy 7, Seymour 5.5, Houston 5, Branch 4, Huff 4, Bryant 2.5, Scott 1.5, Moss 1, McClain 0.5

RANDY LITZINGER / ICON SMI

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Boller, Kyle	QB	6-3	220	6/17/81	8	California
8 Campbell, Jason	QB	6-5	230	12/31/81	7	Auburn
3 Frye, Charlie	QB	6-4	220	8/28/81	7	Akron
5 Gradkowski, Bruce	QB	6-1	220	1/27/83	6	Toledo
13 O'Sullivan, J.T.	QB	6-2	232	8/25/79	9	UC Davis

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Barksdale, Joe	T	6-4	325	1/1/89	0	LSU
69 Barnes, Khalif	T	6-5	325	4/21/82	7	Washington
74 Campbell, Bruce	T	6-6	315	5/25/88	2	Maryland
66 Carlisle, Cooper	G	6-5	295	8/11/77	12	Florida
59 Condo, Jon	LS	6-3	250	8/26/81	6	Maryland
76 Gallery, Robert	T	6-7	325	7/26/80	8	Iowa
75 Henderson, Mario	T	6-7	300	10/29/84	5	Florida State
60 Loper, Daniel	T	6-6	320	1/15/82	7	Texas Tech
65 Parsons, Alex	G	6-4	300	9/14/87	1	USC
64 Satele, Samson	C	6-3	300	11/29/84	5	Hawaii
Schuening, Roy	G	6-3	315	4/8/84	2	Oregon State
68 Veldheer, Jared	T	6-8	315	6/14/87	2	Hillsdale
70 Walker, Langston	T	6-8	360	9/3/79	10	California
Wisniewski, Stefen	C	6-3	313	3/22/89	0	Penn State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Bennett, Michael	RB	5-9	205	8/13/78	11	Wisconsin
29 Bush, Michael	RB	6-1	245	6/16/84	4	Louisville
25 Cartwright, Rock	RB	5-8	215	12/3/79	10	Kansas State
Jones, Taiwan	RB	6-0	194	7/26/88	0	Eastern Washington
20 McFadden, Darren	RB	6-2	210	8/27/87	4	Arkansas
Rankin, Louis	RB	6-1	207	5/4/85	1	Washington
45 Reece, Marcel	RB	6-3	240	6/23/85	3	Washington
41 Tonga, Manase	RB	5-11	245	2/28/84	1	BYU

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
84 Adeniji, Damola	WR	6-3	213	7/18/88	1	Oregon State
Ausberry, David	WR	6-4	243	9/25/87	0	USC
10 Bodiford, Shaun	WR	5-11	186	5/4/82	4	Portland State
88 Brock, Kevin	TE	6-5	255	4/9/86	1	Rutgers
12 Ford, Jacoby	WR	5-9	185	7/27/87	2	Clemson
Gordon, Richard	TE	6-4	265	6/7/87	0	Miami (Fla.)
85 Heyward-Bey, Darrius	WR	6-2	210	2/26/87	3	Maryland
15 Higgins, Johnnie Lee	WR	5-11	185	9/8/83	5	UTEP
89 Miller, Nick	WR	5-9	180	3/29/87	3	Southern Utah
80 Miller, Zach	TE	6-5	255	12/11/85	5	Arizona State
Moore, Denarius	WR	6-0	194	12/9/88	0	Tennessee
18 Murphy, Louis	WR	6-2	200	5/11/87	3	Florida
83 Myers, Brandon	TE	6-4	250	9/4/85	3	Iowa
81 Schilens, Chaz	WR	6-4	225	11/7/85	4	San Diego State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
90 Bryant, Desmond	DT	6-5	290	12/15/85	3	Harvard
52 Groves, Quentin	DE	6-3	265	7/5/84	4	Auburn
79 Henderson, John	DE	6-7	335	1/9/79	10	Tennessee
Hill, Tommie	DE	6-6	245	11/28/85	0	Colorado State
99 Houston, Lamarr	DT	6-3	305	6/24/87	2	Texas
93 Kelly, Tommy	DE	6-6	300	12/27/80	8	Mississippi State
94 Moss, Jarvis	DE	6-7	257	8/3/84	5	Florida
91 Scott, Trevor	DE	6-5	255	8/30/84	4	Buffalo
97 Seymour, Richard	DE	6-6	310	10/6/79	11	Georgia
77 Shaughnessy, Matt	DE	6-5	270	9/23/86	3	Wisconsin
96 Wimbley, Kamerion	DE	6-4	255	10/13/83	6	Florida State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Asomugha, Nnamdi	CB	6-2	210	7/6/81	9	California
Boyd, Jerome	S	6-2	225	5/26/86	1	Oregon
33 Branch, Tyvon	S	6-0	205	12/11/86	4	Connecticut
27 Brown, Stevie	S	5-11	215	7/17/87	2	Michigan
Chekwa, Chimdi	CB	5-11	190	9/7/88	0	Ohio State
31 Eugene, Hiram	S	6-2	200	11/24/80	6	Louisiana Tech
24 Huff, Michael	S	6-1	205	3/6/83	6	Texas
37 Johnson, Chris	CB	6-1	200	9/25/79	8	Louisville
22 McFadden, Walter	CB	5-10	180	1/21/87	2	Auburn
34 Mitchell, Mike	S	6-1	220	6/10/87	3	Ohio
28 Porter, Joe	CB	5-10	205	11/27/85	2	Rutgers
26 Routt, Stanford	CB	6-1	195	7/26/83	7	Houston
56 Scott, Quentin	LB	6-3	220	5/31/88	1	Northern Iowa
Van Dyke, DeMarcus	CB	6-1	168	11/17/89	0	Miami (Fla.)
23 Ware, Jeremy	CB	5-10	185	9/18/86	2	Michigan State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57 Brown, Ricky	LB	6-2	235	12/27/83	6	Boston College
58 Davis, Bruce	LB	6-3	250	9/2/85	3	UCLA
50 Goethel, Travis	LB	6-2	240	7/27/87	2	Arizona State
53 Howard, Thomas	LB	6-3	240	7/14/83	6	UTEP
55 McClain, Rolando	LB	6-3	255	7/14/89	2	Alabama
54 Williams, Sam	LB	6-5	260	7/28/80	9	Fresno State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
11 Janikowski, Sebastian	K	6-2	250	3/2/78	12	Florida State
9 Lechler, Shane	P	6-2	225	8/7/76	12	Texas A&M
Pakulak, Glenn	P	6-3	220	4/9/80	2	Kentucky

HUE JACKSON, Head coach

Al Saunders, offensive coordinator; **Chuck Bresnahan,** defensive coordinator; **John Fassel,** special teams coordinator; **Adam Henry,** tight ends; **Sanjay Lal,** wide receivers; **Greg Biekert,** linebackers; **Kevin Ross,** safeties; **Kelly Skipper,** running backs; **Mike Waufle,** defensive line; **Steve Wisniewski,** asst. offensive line; **Rod Woodson,** cornerbacks; **Bob Wylie,** offensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

HUE JACKSON

Jackson wants a team that takes the fight to the opponent and dictates the action from the outset. He won't hesitate going for a first down on a fourth-and-short play, mixing in trick plays or taking chances on deep throws. His primary impact will be on offense, where he covets a strong rushing attack, a complementary passing attack and a quarterback who doesn't make many mistakes.

cover the opposing team's top receiver more often. Johnson is the only other cornerback on the roster with starting experience, though he struggled last season in a backup role.

The Raiders aren't likely to bring back starting free safety Michael Huff after a five-year run. Strong safety Tyvon Branch returns to the same role he has played the past three seasons. He is a proven force against the run but still struggles with his consistency against the pass.

Journeyman Hiram Eugene and second-year player Stevie Brown are vying for the spot occupied by Huff for so long. While Eugene has an edge in experience, Brown figures to get an extensive shot at the starting job based on his penchant for making big plays in spot duty last season. Backup safety Mike Mitchell showed great improvement last season and is expected to get more playing time in 2011. The addition of Hall of Famer Rod Woodson to the coaching staff could make a difference in the development of the secondary. **GRADE: B-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Few teams are as solid as the Raiders' kicker, punter and long snapper. Sebastian Janikowski, Shane Lechler and Jon Condo are together for a fifth straight season, and they are regarded among the best at their respective positions. Janikowski and Lechler do a masterful job of providing the Raiders with an edge in field position.

Ford is fresh off a rookie season in which he returned three kicks for touchdowns. He is expected to become the team's punt returner this season, which likely would make the Raiders even more potent on special teams. Jones could also be a factor in the return game as a rookie. **GRADE: A-**

BOTTOM LINE

The Raiders are convinced they are on the precipice of a major breakthrough this season, and focused on bringing back a majority of their prospective free agents. However, they face a much tougher schedule in 2011 and will be hard-pressed to duplicate their impressive feat of going undefeated in the AFC West.

Oakland also still lacks a game-changing wide receiver, its offensive line is unstable and the team will likely be without arguably the NFL's top corner in Asomugha. Challenging for the division crown is in the Raiders' sights, but there is certainly work that needs to be done.

86 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: UP

KANSAS CITY
CHIEFS
Riddell
82
DWAYNE
BOWE
WR

With a tough schedule, Cassel and Chiefs could be in line for pitfall

By Adam Teicher *Kansas City Star*

The Chiefs may find out this season that it's more difficult to stay on top than get to the top.

Kansas City accelerated its development last season by taking advantage of a weak schedule to win 10 games and its first AFC West championship since 2003. But embedded in that season were several omens that don't bode well for 2011.

The Chiefs played a cupcake schedule last season that included games against just two playoff teams. This year, they'll play six playoff contenders from last year, including all four conference finalists. Of their seven losses last season, four came by 20 points or more. Kansas City also finished 2-4 in AFC West games, including blowout losses against all three opponents.

If they are to repeat as division champions and postseason participants, the Chiefs need to make some significant gains all over the field.

OFFENSE

Line coach Bill Muir will now add coordinator duties to his job title, replacing the departed Charlie Weis, who left to run the offense at the University of Florida. But don't expect the offense to look much different, as Muir was already involved in many of the aspects—particularly in the running game.

Coach Todd Haley will still be setting the agenda and will likely wind up calling the plays. If that happens, look for the Chiefs to be more aggressive with their downfield passing game.

Quarterbacks ▸ Kansas City improved its running game and defense last season, and it's no coincidence Matt Cassel responded with his best campaign. Cassel improved in all significant statistical areas and showed better decision making. He cut down on the number of sacks he took by getting rid of the ball when nothing developed down the field.

While Cassel proved to be a player the Chiefs can build around, the team also didn't go as far to ask him to win games. He isn't the kind of gunslinger who can pull a game out of the fire, but rather is more of a game manager.

The Chiefs may be ready to find a new backup this year, as Brodie Croyle was miserable in the one game he had to start last season for the ailing Cassel. Croyle is also 0-10 in his career as a starter. That's not the type of record that inspires confidence in his coaches and teammates. **GRADE: C+**

Running backs ▸ After a dynamic 2010 season, Jamaal Charles is unquestionably one of the game's best backs. At 200 pounds, he isn't big for a featured back but has been durable and versatile. The Chiefs like to throw the ball to Charles coming out of the backfield and split him wide, where his speed demands attention.

The Chiefs have done a nice job of playing to Charles' strengths. They also resisted

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 7-1

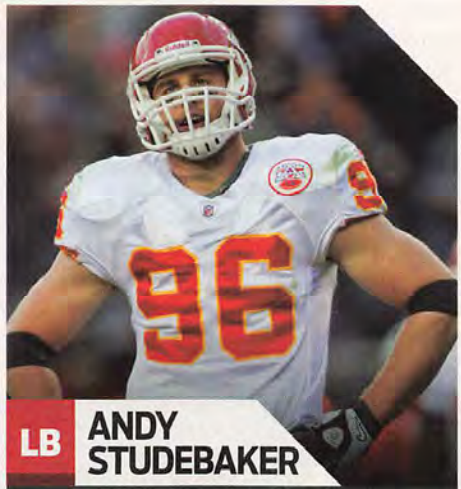
- **ONLINE:** www.kcchiefs.com
- **STADIUM:** Arrowhead Stadium

Capacity: 79,451 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 816-920-9400

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Missouri Western University, St. Joseph, Mo.; 816-920-9300

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB ANDY STUDEBAKER

The Chiefs groomed Studebaker to be the successor to Mike Vrabel at outside linebacker, and that time may have arrived. Studebaker is a good athlete with nice instincts and has a knack for making big plays.

CHIEFS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Emmitt Thomas *(1966-78)*	58	2	Johnny Robinson *(1963-71)*	57	3	Deron Cherry *(1981-91)*	50

AFC WEST

SN PICK 7-9

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Matt Cassel Brodie Croyle
FB	Mike Cox Tim Castille
RB	Jamaal Charles Thomas Jones
LT	Branden Albert Barry Richardson
LG	Brian Waters Jon Asamoah
C	Rodney Hudson Casey Wiegmann
RG	Ryan Lilja Darryl Harris
RT	Barry Richardson Ryan O'Callaghan
TE	Tony Moeaki Leonard Pope
WR	Jonathan Baldwin Verran Tucker
WR	Dwayne Bowe Dexter McCluster
DEFENSE	
DE	Tyson Jackson Shaun Smith
NT	Ron Edwards Anthony Toribio
DE	Glenn Dorsey Wallace Gilberry
OLB	Andy Studebaker Mike Vrabel
ILB	Jovan Belcher Cory Greenwood
ILB	Derrick Johnson Demorrio Williams
OLB	Tamba Hali Justin Houston
LCB	Brandon Flowers Javier Arenas
SS	Eric Berry Reshard Langford
FS	Kendrick Lewis Jon McGraw
RCB	Brandon Carr Travis Daniels
SPECIALISTS	
K	Ryan Succop
P	Dustin Colquitt
KR	Dexter McCluster
PR	Javier Arenas
LS	Thomas Gafford

FACING: WD / ICON SMI; THIS PAGE: DAVID EULITT / KANSAS CITY STAR / GETTY

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	BUFFALO	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	@ DETROIT	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	@ SAN DIEGO	SEPT. 25	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	MINNESOTA	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	@ INDIANAPOLIS	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	OPEN			
WEEK 7	@ OAKLAND	OCT. 23	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	SAN DIEGO	OCT. 31	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	MIAMI	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	DENVER	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	@ NEW ENGLAND	NOV. 21	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 12	PITTSBURGH	NOV. 27	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	@ CHICAGO	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	@ N.Y. JETS	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	GREEN BAY	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	OAKLAND	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	@ DENVER	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the temptation to overuse Charles by allowing Thomas Jones to share the load with him. Jones had more carries last year than Charles, but don't expect that to happen in 2011.

Jones, who will be 33 before the campaign begins, appears to be near the end of his career. He averaged almost three fewer yards per carry last season than Charles, a sure sign his skills are eroding.

The Chiefs don't use their fullback much because Mike Cox is a serviceable player, at best. **GRADE: A-**

Receivers ▸ Dwayne Bowe finally delivered on his potential last season when he broke through for his first Pro Bowl appearance. But Bowe is still inconsistent at times, so it's dangerous to think he has arrived as an elite player. Though he improved last season, particularly in reducing his dropped passes, Bowe remains a work in progress.

Still, Bowe is the only receiver the Chiefs can count on. That's why the Chiefs selected Pitt's Jon Baldwin in the first round of the 2011 draft. They'll be counting on Baldwin to take pressure off Bowe. Baldwin is not a burner but he's fast, so he will immediately become their deep threat. But he's also big enough to run well after the catch and can use his size to his advantage in jump-ball situations in the end zone.

Dexter McCluster had little impact as a slot receiver last year, but he can be a difficult matchup for opposing defenses because of his speed and quickness. Expect him to deliver more this season now that he has more experience.

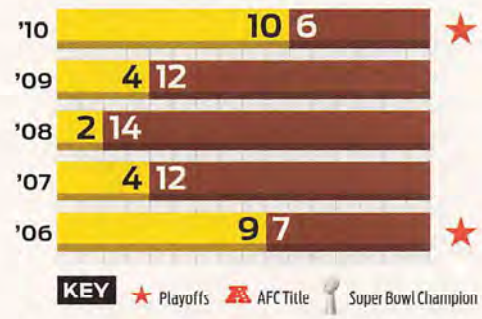
Tight end Tony Moeaki was a find as a rookie last year. Moeaki was Cassel's most reliable target for most of the season. He runs precise routes, has sure hands and will make the difficult catch. Moeaki shares the spot with veteran Leonard Pope, who has more value as a blocker than pass receiver. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line ▸ The Chiefs led the league in rushing and reduced the number of sacks allowed last year, so they must have done a few things right up front. But cracks are showing on the line, as age and injury issues allowed Kansas City to be manhandled in the final regular-season game against the Raiders as well as in the postseason contest against Baltimore.

To help remedy the problem, the Chiefs drafted Rodney Hudson of Florida State in the second round. Hudson will start somewhere in the middle of the offensive line, probably at center.

Guard Brian Waters had another Pro Bowl season last year while free agent acquisition Ryan Lilja played well, too. But the 34-year-old Waters is starting to show signs of age, while Lilja has a history of injuries and may not hold up forever. Jon Asamoah is ready to challenge for a starting spot. A third-round pick last year, he is big and tough and played well in brief stints

5-YEAR RECORD: 29-51



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

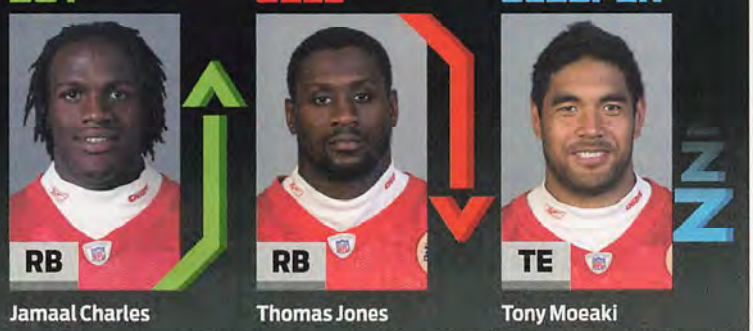
(an opponent breaks down the Chiefs)

"They made a lot of defensive improvement last year. (Coordinator) Romeo Crennel deserves a lot of credit for that. He does a good job of finding ways to take away the things you like to do while also attacking your weaknesses. Those two safeties make a difference too, (Eric) Berry in particular. He did a good job of cleaning up when somebody else missed an assignment. You have to be patient against them because they don't give you many opportunities to get the big play. ...

"On offense, they improved their team speed tremendously. It can be difficult to defend them when both (Jamaal) Charles and (Dexter) McCluster are in the lineup. Other than (Dwayne) Bowe, their receivers are nothing to worry about. If you find a way to take Bowe out of the game, they're going to struggle. They also don't respond well on offense when you overpower them physically. That's what Oakland and Baltimore did to them last year and look what happened in those games."

FANTASY SPIN

Dwayne Bowe is coming off a bounce-back season in which he dominated in stretches, like when he scored seven TDs in Weeks 10-12. The next step is becoming more consistent.



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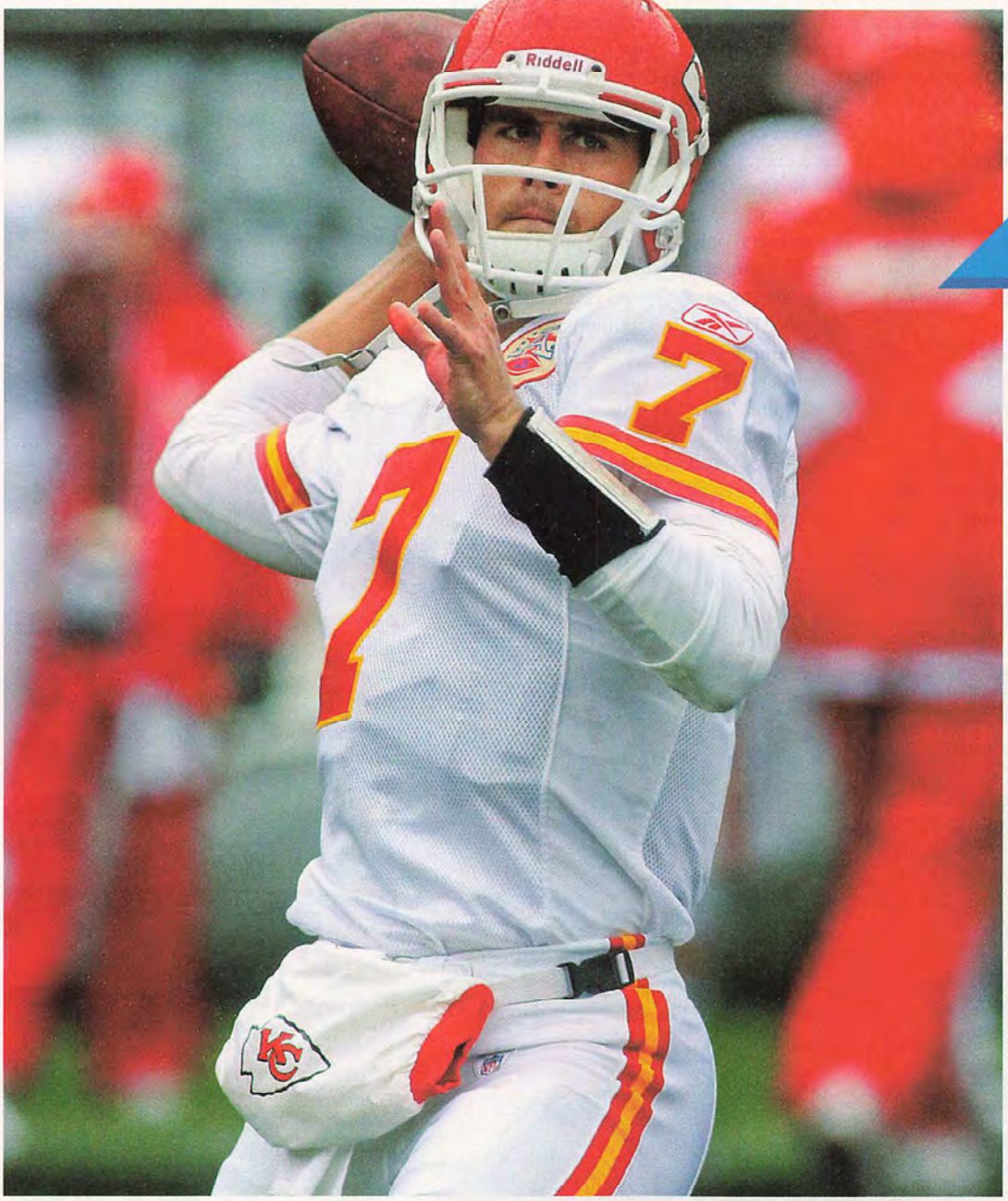


CARY EDMONDSON / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

MATT CASSEL

"You have to respect him for becoming a player through all the things he's had to deal with. He didn't play in college or his first few NFL seasons. Then he gets thrown into a very difficult situation his first season with Kansas City. But he survived and so he obviously believes in himself, which is what you want to see in a quarterback. ...

"He's not a quarterback you fear in the sense he's not going to beat you by himself. His game is more about not making mistakes and getting the ball to the right people in the right place than it is about him picking you apart down the field, so you try to get him off his rhythm. He's more mature in the pocket than he used to be. He'll unload the ball rather than try to make something out of every play and take a sack."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	349.7	12
RUSHING	164.2	1
Passing	185.5	30
Scoring	366	14
Punt Returns	10.1	17
Kick Returns	19.7	28
Red Zone TD %	59.6	8t
Total Defense	330.2	14
Against Rush	110.2	14
Against Pass	219.9	17
Points Allowed	326	11
Interceptions	14	19t
Sacks	39	10t
Turnover Diff.	9	5t

as a rookie.

Both young tackles, Branden Albert on the left side and Barry Richardson on the right, are still struggling to establish themselves as dependable players, but they are the best the Chiefs have at those positions. **GRADE: B-**

DEFENSE

The Chiefs improved dramatically on defense under coordinator Romeo Crennel last season. Crennel excels at designing a game plan based on a specific opponent's strengths and weaknesses, so the Chiefs would change their tendencies from week to week. Kansas City doesn't blitz much except when Crennel believes it's the best way to attack a particular opponent.

Defensive line ▸ The Chiefs have invested a lot of draft picks in recent years on the defensive front. But the results have been mixed and Kansas City is still searching for the right combination.

End Glenn Dorsey is a versatile player who fills many roles. After starting his career slowly, Dorsey has developed into a capable run defender. However, improvement is still needed as a pass rusher to prove he deserved to be the fifth overall player selected in the 2008 draft.

The Chiefs still believe end Tyson Jackson can make similar gains and prove worthy of his selection as the third overall pick in 2009. Jackson improved toward the end of last season but may never be more than an adequate player against the run. He comes out of the lineup in obvious passing situations.

Veteran Ron Edwards is a serviceable nose tackle who holds up well against the run. Two backups, Wallace Gilberry and Shaun Smith, have exceeded expectations. Gilberry, an end who plays only in passing situations, was second on the team with seven sacks last season. Smith is a versatile player capable of handling different roles. He filled in nicely for an injured Jackson last season while also providing valuable rest for Edwards.

GRADE: C-

Linebackers ▸ A positional weakness for the Chiefs for years, this unit had a turnaround last year when Tamba Hali and Derrick Johnson stepped into the elite ranks. Hali, an outside linebacker, led the AFC in sacks with 14.5. The Chiefs drafted Justin Houston of Georgia in the third round to help as a rusher. While Houston may not be able to win a starting spot this early in his career, he will at least be asked to help on passing downs.

Johnson, an inconsistent player early in his career, became a big-time playmaker for the Chiefs last season. However, his inability to catch the ball is a huge flaw, as he garnered only one interception out of multiple turnover chances last season.

Andy Studebaker joins Hali on the outside. The Chiefs groomed Studebaker for a couple of seasons to replace veteran Mike Vrabel (an unrestricted free agent), and that time appears to have come. Studebaker is sometimes mechanical with his pass-rush moves but does have skill in that area. He can cover on passing downs as well.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/13	W	21-14	San Diego Chargers
09/19	W	16-14	Cleveland Browns
09/26	W	31-10	San Francisco 49ers
10/10	L	9-19	Indianapolis Colts
10/17	L	31-35	Houston Texans
10/24	W	42-20	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/31	W	13-10	Buffalo Bills
11/07	L	20-23	Oakland Raiders
11/14	L	29-49	Denver Broncos
11/21	W	31-13	Arizona Cardinals
11/28	W	42-24	Seattle Seahawks
12/05	W	10-6	Denver Broncos
12/12	L	0-31	San Diego Chargers
12/19	W	27-13	St. Louis Rams
12/26	W	34-14	Tennessee Titans
10/02	L	10-31	Oakland Raiders

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Charles	230	1467	6.4	80	5
Jones	245	896	3.7	70	6
Cassel	33	125	3.8	23	0
McCluster	18	71	3.9	20	0
Battle	20	50	2.5	7	1
Palko	2	5	2.5	6	0
Arenas	1	5	5.0	5	0
Bowe	1	4	4.0	4	0
Castille	5	3	0.6	3	0
Smith	1	1	1.0	1	1
KANSAS CITY	**556**	**2627**	**4.7**	**80**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**408**	**1764**	**4.3**	**28**	**11**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bowe	72	1162	16.1	75	15
Moeaki	47	556	11.8	34	3
Charles	45	468	10.4	31	3
Chambers	22	213	9.7	26	1
McCluster	21	209	10.0	31	1
Copper	18	157	8.7	20	0
Jones	14	122	8.7	20	0
Castille	10	43	4.3	14	0
Pope	10	76	7.6	14	2
Tucker	6	114	19.0	38	1
Cox	4	27	6.8	13	0
O'Connell	3	31	10.3	18	0
Battle	1	9	9.0	9	0
Vrabel	1	2	2.0	2	1
KANSAS CITY	**274**	**3189**	**11.6**	**75**	**27**
OPPONENTS	**319**	**3519**	**11.0**	**87**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cassel	450	262	3116	27	7
Croyle	19	8	38	0	1
Palko	6	4	35	0	0
KANSAS CITY	**475**	**274**	**3189**	**27**	**8**
OPPONENTS	**581**	**319**	**3777**	**23**	**14**

SACKS KANSAS CITY 38, OPPONENTS 32

Hali 14.5, Gilberry 7, Arenas 3, Studebaker 2.5, Berry 2, Dorsey 2, Edwards 2, Belcher 1, Jackson 1, Johnson 1, Smith 1, Williams 1

DRAFT REPORT

Baldwin

Jon Baldwin has great size, strength and receiving skills as a wideout, but wasn't consistent at Pittsburgh. Most of his inconsistency seemed to stem from a lack of effort. Still, he has the talent to thrive as a top-end possession receiver. **Rodney Hudson** was a curious choice. He's a dominant blocker with good athleticism and technique, but is small for the position. Few interior linemen have succeeded in the NFL at his current weight, so he'll need to bulk up.

Justin Houston is one of the most explosive pass rushers in this year's draft, but his production was hit or miss due to a lack of intensity on every snap. Also, he's a character concern after reportedly testing positive for marijuana at the NFL Combine. The Chiefs got some value in cornerback **Jalil Brown** and quarterback **Ricky Stanzi**. Both are good enough to play as backups right away while they develop. Nose tackle **Jerrell Powe** and running back **Shane Bannon** were great sleeper picks who should help in a few seasons.

GRADE: B-

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	26	Jon Baldwin	WR	6-4	228	Pittsburgh
2	23	Rodney Hudson	C	6-2	299	Florida State
3	6	Justin Houston	DE/LB	6-3	270	Georgia
3	22	Allen Bailey	DE	6-3	285	Miami (Fla.)
4	21	Jalil Brown	CB	6-1	205	Colorado
5	4	Ricky Stanzi	QB	6-4	223	Iowa
5	9	Gabe Miller	DE	6-3	250	Oregon State
6	34	Jerrell Powe	DT	6-2	335	Mississippi
7	20	Shane Bannon	FB	6-2	266	Yale

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Cassel, Matt	QB	6-4	230	5/17/82	7	USC
12 Croyle, Brodie	QB	6-2	206	2/6/83	6	Alabama
4 Palko, Tyler	QB	6-1	215	8/9/83	1	Pittsburgh
Stanzi, Ricky	QB	6-4	223	9/3/87	0	Iowa

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Albert, Branden	T	6-5	316	11/4/84	4	Virginia
73 Asamoah, Jon	G	6-4	305	7/21/88	2	Illinois
43 Gafford, Thomas	LS	6-2	250	1/29/83	4	Houston
66 Harris, Darryl	G	6-4	300	1/14/85	1	Ole Miss
Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	299	7/12/89	0	Florida State
65 Lilja, Ryan	C	6-2	290	10/15/81	8	Kansas State
64 Niswanger, Rudy	C	6-5	301	11/9/82	6	LSU
75 O'Callaghan, Ryan	T	6-7	330	7/19/83	6	California
67 Richardson, Barry	T	6-6	319	5/15/86	4	Clemson
54 Waters, Brian	G	6-3	320	2/18/77	12	North Texas
62 Wiegmann, Casey	C	6-2	285	7/20/73	16	Iowa

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Bannon, Shane	FB	6-2	266	11/30/89	0	Yale
26 Battle, Jackie	RB	6-2	238	10/1/83	4	Houston
46 Castille, Tim	RB	5-11	238	5/29/84	5	Alabama
25 Charles, Jamaal	RB	5-11	199	12/27/86	4	Texas
42 Cox, Mike	RB	6-0	252	7/11/85	4	Georgia Tech
38 Johnson, Tervaris	RB	6-2	248	6/14/88	2	Miami (Fla.)
20 Jones, Thomas	RB	5-10	212	8/19/78	12	Virginia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Baldwin, Jonathan	WR	6-4	228	8/10/89	0	Pittsburgh
82 Bowe, Dwayne	WR	6-2	221	9/21/84	5	LSU
84 Chambers, Chris	WR	5-11	210	8/12/78	11	Wisconsin
10 Copper, Terrance	WR	6-0	207	3/12/82	8	East Carolina
87 Cottam, Brad	TE	6-7	269	11/28/84	4	Tennessee
17 Curtis, Kevin	WR	6-0	186	7/17/78	8	Utah State
Horne, Jeremy	WR	6-2	193	10/25/86	1	Massachusetts
14 Lawrence, Quinten	WR	6-0	184	9/21/84	2	McNeese State
22 McCluster, Dexter	WR	5-8	170	8/25/88	2	Ole Miss
81 Moeaki, Tony	TE	6-3	252	6/8/87	2	Iowa
85 O'Connell, Jake	TE	6-3	250	11/6/85	3	Miami (Ohio)
45 Pope, Leonard	TE	6-8	264	9/10/83	6	Georgia
Slate, Cody	TE	6-4	229	8/14/87	1	Marshall
15 Tucker, Verran	WR	6-1	204	6/26/88	2	California
83 Urban, Jerheme	WR	6-3	207	11/26/80	7	Trinity (Texas)
8 Williams, Chandler	WR	5-11	176	8/9/85	2	Florida International

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Bailey, Allen	DE	6-3	285	3/25/89	0	Miami (Fla.)
72 Dorsey, Glenn	DT	6-1	297	8/1/85	4	LSU
95 Edwards, Ron	DT	6-3	315	7/12/79	11	Texas A&M
70 Gales, Dion	DT	6-5	259	8/17/85	1	Troy
92 Gilberry, Wallace	DE	6-2	268	12/5/84	4	Alabama
74 Greenwood, Bobby	DT	6-5	278	3/2/87	1	Alabama
91 Hali, Tamba	DE	6-3	275	11/3/83	6	Penn State
94 Jackson, Tyson	DE	6-4	296	6/6/86	3	LSU
Powe, Jerrell	DT	6-2	335	3/15/87	0	Ole Miss
55 Sheffield, Cameron	DE	6-2	257	2/12/88	2	Troy
90 Smith, Shaun	DT	6-2	325	8/19/81	7	South Carolina
98 Toribio, Anthony	DT	6-1	315	3/1/85	2	Carson-Newman

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Arenas, Javier	CB	5-9	197	10/28/87	2	Alabama
41 Bates, Jackie	CB	5-10	180	10/12/86	2	Hampton
29 Berry, Eric	S	6-0	211	12/29/88	2	Tennessee
Brown, Jalil	CB	6-1	205	10/14/87	0	Colorado
39 Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	207	5/19/86	4	Grand Valley State
34 Daniels, Travis	CB	6-1	195	9/8/82	7	LSU
24 Flowers, Brandon	CB	5-9	187	2/18/86	4	Virginia Tech
48 Langford, Reshard	S	6-1	213	2/6/86	2	Vanderbilt
31 Leggett, Maurice	LB	5-11	188	10/2/86	4	Valdosta State
23 Lewis, Kendrick	S	6-0	198	6/16/88	2	Ole Miss
47 McGraw, Jon	S	6-3	208	4/2/79	10	Kansas State
35 Price, Ricky	S	6-1	195	9/16/87	2	Oklahoma State
27 Washington, Donald	CB	6-1	197	7/28/86	3	Ohio State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
52 Anderson, Charlie	LB	6-4	250	12/8/81	8	Ole Miss
Bakhtiari, Eric	LB	6-3	250	12/7/84	1	San Diego
59 Belcher, Jovan	LB	6-2	228	7/24/87	3	Maine
57 Cole, Justin	LB	6-3	242	11/22/87	2	San Jose State
93 Greenwood, Cory	LB	6-2	235	6/5/85	2	Concordia (Quebec)
Houston, Justin	LB	6-3	270	1/21/89	0	Georgia
Johnson, Micah	LB	6-2	258	6/22/88	1	Kentucky
56 Johnson, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	11/22/82	7	Texas
51 Mays, Corey	LB	6-1	245	11/27/83	6	Notre Dame
Miller, Gabe	LB	6-3	250	12/5/87	0	Oregon State
96 Studebaker, Andy	LB	6-3	248	9/16/85	4	Wheaton
50 Vrabel, Mike	LB	6-4	261	8/14/75	15	Ohio State
97 Walters, Pierre	LB	6-5	269	3/25/86	2	Eastern Illinois
53 Williams, Demorrio	LB	6-1	232	7/6/80	8	Nebraska

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	5/6/82	7	Tennessee
6 Succop, Ryan	K	6-2	218	9/19/86	3	South Carolina

TODD HALEY, Head coach

Bill Muir, offensive coordinator/offensive line; **Romeo Crennel,** defensive coordinator; **Steve Hoffman,** special teams; **Maurice Carthon,** asst. head coach; **Richie Anderson,** wide receivers; **Gary Gibbs,** linebackers; **Bernie Parmalee,** tight ends; **Pat Perles,** asst. offensive line; **Anthony Pleasant,** defensive line; **Emmitt Thomas,** defensive backs; **Adam Zimmer,** defensive assistant/asst. linebackers; **Jim Zorn,** quarterbacks

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TODD HALEY

Haley doesn't always follow the book when he makes game-day decisions. The Chiefs will frequently try to convert on fourth downs in unconventional situations. They will also attempt an onside kick in a situation that doesn't call for it.

Studebaker has shown a knack for making big plays in limited playing time.

Outside linebacker Jovan Belcher is a sure tackler on running plays but comes out of the game in passing situations. **GRADE: B+**

Secondary › The Chiefs can attribute their improvement on defense last season to their young secondary. Rookies Eric Berry (strong safety) and Kendrick Lewis (free safety) not only survived but also thrived as starters last year. Both players are strong against the run and were able to stop running plays from going downfield—something the older, slower Kansas City safeties weren't able to do in 2009.

Brandon Flowers and Brandon Carr developed into solid cornerbacks last year. Flowers deserved Pro Bowl consideration before a hamstring injury late in the season caused his play to tail off slightly. He's a solid technician who rarely gets caught out of position. Though he's only 5-9 and 187 pounds, Flowers is a factor against the run because he isn't afraid of contact with bigger opponents and is a sure tackler in the open field.

Carr was drafted when the Chiefs played mostly zone in the cover 2 system but has become a capable player in man-to-man coverage. **GRADE: A-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Chiefs are hopeful that McCluster and Javier Arenas can revive the team's long-dormant return game. Neither had the impact the Chiefs expected last season when they were rookies, but each has the ability to become one of the league's top return specialists.

Dustin Colquitt doesn't have spectacular statistics but is one of the league's most dependable punters. His punts have good hangtime, making them easy to cover. He also has a nice touch inside the 20-yard line. Kicker Ryan Succop has a strong leg, so long field goal attempts are an option with him. He needs more consistency on his kickoffs, however. Long snapper Thomas Gafford is reliable and has the athletic ability to get downfield and cover on punts. **GRADE: C+**

BOTTOM LINE

Because of an upgraded schedule, the Chiefs may be a better team than last season but with an inferior record. Still, Kansas City will be tough to handle on a weekly basis, and could challenge for a playoff spot once again. However, they'll need to prove they can compete against the league's better teams if they are to reach the postseason for a second consecutive year.

79 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: STEADY

4

AFC WEST

SN PICK 4-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Kyle Orton Tim Tebow
RB	Knowshon Moreno Lance Ball
LT	Ryan Clady Chris Clark
LG	Zane Beadles Eric Olsen
C	J.D. Walton Jeff Byers
RG	Chris Kuper Russ Hochstein
RT	Orlando Franklin Manny Ramirez
TE	Richard Quinn Virgil Green
WR	Brandon Lloyd Demaryius Thomas
WR	Eddie Royal Eric Decker
WR	Jabar Gaffney Britt Davis
DEFENSE	
DE	Elvis Dumervil Jeremy Beal
DT	Ryan McBean Louis Leonard
DT	Kevin Vickerson Mitch Unrein
DE	Robert Ayers Mario Haggan
SLB	Von Miller Mike Mohamed
MLB	Nate Irving Joe Mays
WLB	D.J. Williams Wesley Woodyard
LCB	Champ Bailey Perrish Cox
SS	Brian Dawkins Darcel McBath
FS	Rahim Moore Renaldo Hill
RCB	Andre Goodman Syd'Quan Thompson
SPECIALISTS	
K	Matt Prater
P	Britton Colquitt
KR	Eric Decker
PR	Eddie Royal
LS	Lonie Paxton

With Elway now in charge, Broncos look to buck recent run of mediocrity

By Lee Rasizer *correspondent*

John Elway was known as the comeback king during his Hall of Fame playing career. The timing couldn't be better for another huge rally.

Tabbed with the responsibility of rebuilding the Denver Broncos after being named the franchise's top football executive in January, Elway immediately recognized a different kind of large deficit, this one relating to the franchise's talent level.

Poor decisions, uneven drafts and questionable deals all contributed to a 4-12 record that marked Denver's worst since the year after Elway retired following the 1998 season.

So Elway swept out many of the remnants of the Josh McDaniels era and hired the experienced hand of John Fox as head coach, retained general manager Brian Xanders and got to work trying to build upon lackluster results that include just one postseason victory since back-to-back AFC West titles in 1997-98.

OFFENSE

Mike McCoy was offensive coordinator in name only with McDaniels calling the plays the last two seasons. But McCoy has worked with Fox at Carolina, and if that pairing is any indication, the team will attempt to shore up its running attack and pass to complement the ground game rather than the other way around. Fox swears his attack won't be conservative yet will also mention that a punt is not a negative play.

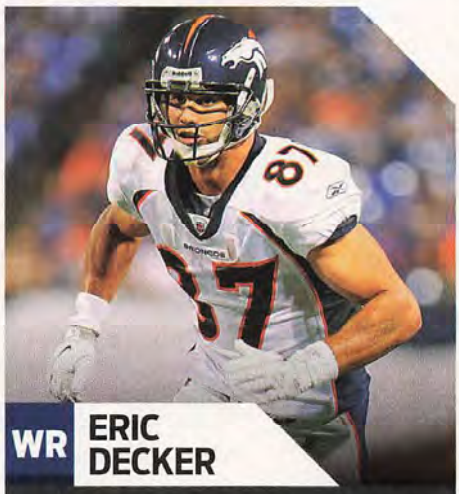
Quarterbacks ▸ Nothing like a quarterback controversy to get the masses stirred up. And in Denver, there's a potential doozy. Based on numbers and experience, Kyle Orton is the obvious choice to start. A rib injury kept him out of the final three games in 2010 and prevented him from surpassing the career numbers he posted in 2009, though he finished with respectable totals of 3,653 yards, 20 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

Orton is well respected by his teammates and rarely makes the critical game-changing mistake. But he hasn't demonstrated that he can make the plays off script that define great quarterbacks. However, his backup, Tim Tebow, is a master of that sleight of hand.

The problem is, Tebow isn't as well-versed in the scheduled plays that are the cornerstone of an NFL pocket passer—thus the conundrum for Denver's front office.

In Tebow's three starts last year, he was responsible for seven touchdowns (Tebow scored a total of 11 TDs for the season) and added a dimension to the red-zone attack. Overall, Orton is the safer option. But is he the best choice? A lack of offseason workouts due to the lockout could work against Tebow, who overwhelmingly has the fans' support as the man they'd like to see behind center.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



WR ERIC DECKER

Decker took a while to get acclimated after he suffered a foot injury while at the University of Minnesota. But with the uncertainty of Demaryius Thomas' recovery time from a torn Achilles, Decker has the skills to earn more chances as the slot receiver and primary kick returner.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 4-12 HOME: 3-5

▸ **ONLINE:** www.denverbroncos.com

▸ **STADIUM:** Invesco Field at Mile High

Capacity: 76,125 **Turf:** Grass

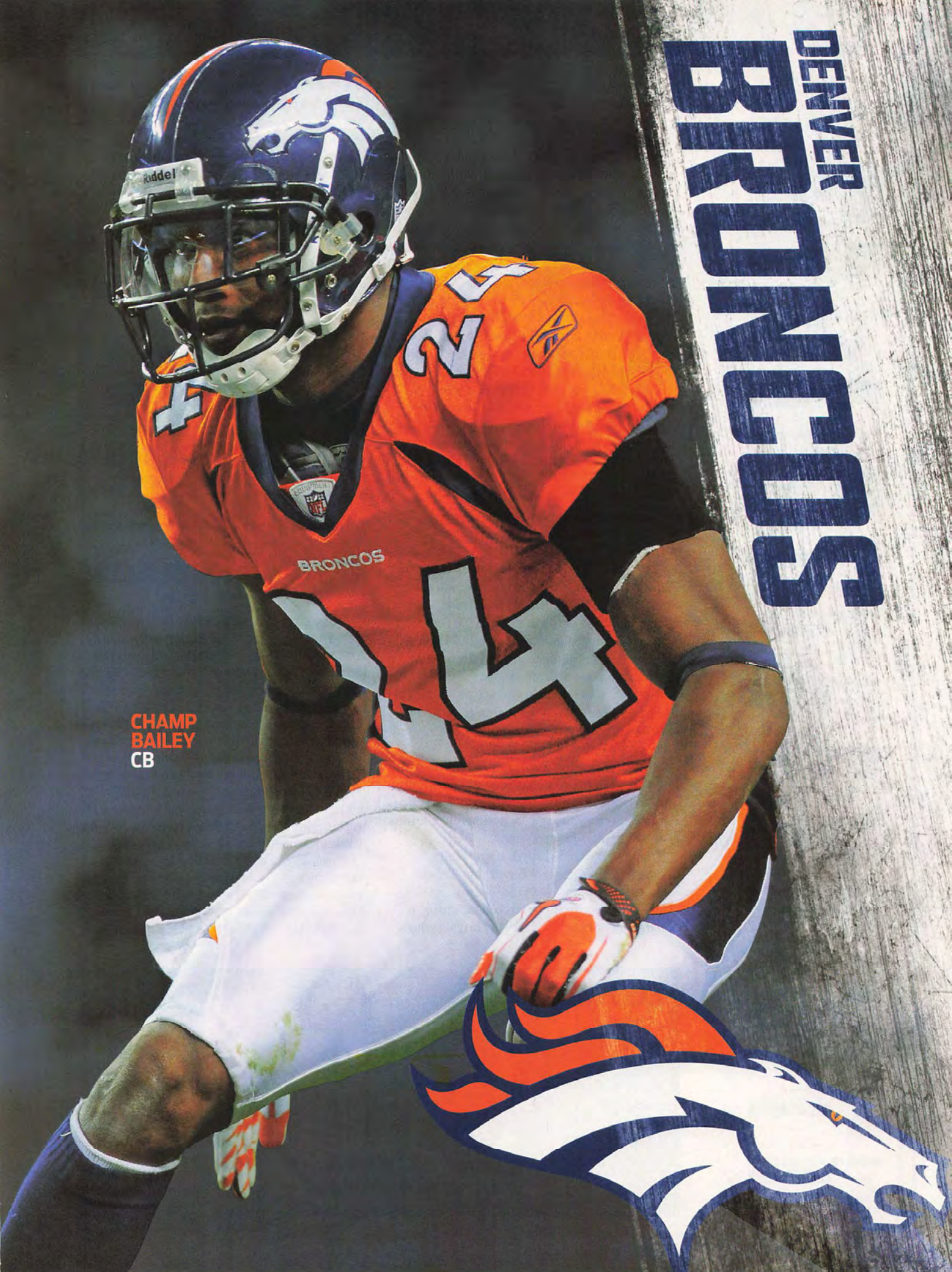
Tickets: 720-258-3333

▸ **TRAINING CAMP:** Paul D. Bowlen Broncos Memorial Centre, Englewood, Colo.; 303-749-9000

BRONCOS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Steve Foley *(1976-86)*	44	2	Goose Gonsoulin *(1960-66)*	43	3	Bill Thompson *(1969-81)*	40

BRACE HEMMELGARN / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: ICON SMI


DENVER
BRONCOS
CHAMP
BAILEY
CB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	OAKLAND	SEPT. 12	10:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	CINCINNATI	SEPT. 18	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	@TENNESSEE	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	@ GREEN BAY	OCT. 2	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	SAN DIEGO	OCT. 9	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	OPEN			
WEEK 7	@ MIAMI	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	DETROIT	OCT. 30	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	@ OAKLAND	NOV. 6	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ KANSAS CITY	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	N.Y. JETS	NOV. 17	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 12	@ SAN DIEGO	NOV. 27	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	@ MINNESOTA	DEC. 4	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	CHICAGO	DEC. 11	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	NEW ENGLAND	DEC. 18	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	@ BUFFALO	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	KANSAS CITY	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

If Tebow demonstrates massive strides in training camp, it might make Orton expendable via trade, leaving Brady Quinn to handle backup duties. **GRADE: B**

Running backs ▸ The Broncos lost their top two running backs to significant injuries on the opening day of training camp last season. That didn't help establish an early-season rhythm, nor did things particularly get better once Knowshon Moreno and Correll Buckhalter returned to action, as Denver finished 26th in rushing yards per game (96.5).

Moreno, the team's 2009 first-round pick, has had setbacks two straight years with summer health issues. But even when of sound body, he simply hasn't demonstrated that he can be the bell cow of an NFL attack.

Buckhalter is a candidate to be released whenever the lockout ends. LenDale White tore his Achilles in training camp last summer and should compete for a rotational role. White looked good in the brief period before he was hurt. **GRADE: C-**

Receivers ▸ Things on the surface look solid at this position for Denver. Jabar Gaffney set career highs with 65 receptions and 875 yards last season. Brandon Lloyd surprised the NFL world by putting together a spectacular Pro Bowl season. Eddie Royal became the ninth player in team history to have at least 1,000 combined yards in each of his first two seasons. And 2010 picks Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker appear primed for breakthrough sophomore campaigns.

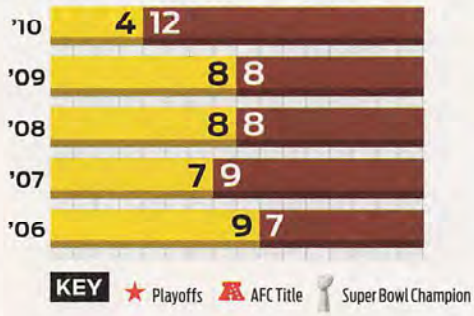
But glance below that surface and it reveals the kind of imperfections makeup normally hides. Royal had offseason hip surgery. Thomas will miss at least half the 2011 season after tearing his Achilles' tendon in February. Lloyd's season came out of the blue and there's some question whether it can be duplicated or even approached, while Gaffney is entering his 10th pro year.

The key to it all is Lloyd. He not only became Orton's go-to receiver, but Tebow locked on to him as well last season. And if Lloyd can continue to stretch defenses, it allows players such as Decker, Royal (who's supposed to be ready for training camp) and Gaffney to be more effective on the underneath routes.

Denver added two pass-catching tight ends in the draft to complement in-line blocker Richard Quinn, with Nevada's Virgil Green more pro-ready than basketball convert Julius Thomas of Portland State. **GRADE: B-**

Offensive line ▸ Under new offensive line coach Dave Magazu, the Broncos are expected to reincorporate a more movement-based scheme up front that can take advantage of the

5-YEAR RECORD: 36-44



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Broncos)

"(Coach John) Fox is a four-down guy. He's going to have a running football team complemented by play-action passing. That's what they'll make their living doing and play good defense. He'll emphasize defense and make sure they're sound and tough. And they're going to run the ball to where it's not always bad to punt sometimes. Having known him for a while, we even copied some things from him. He's going to be sound. ...

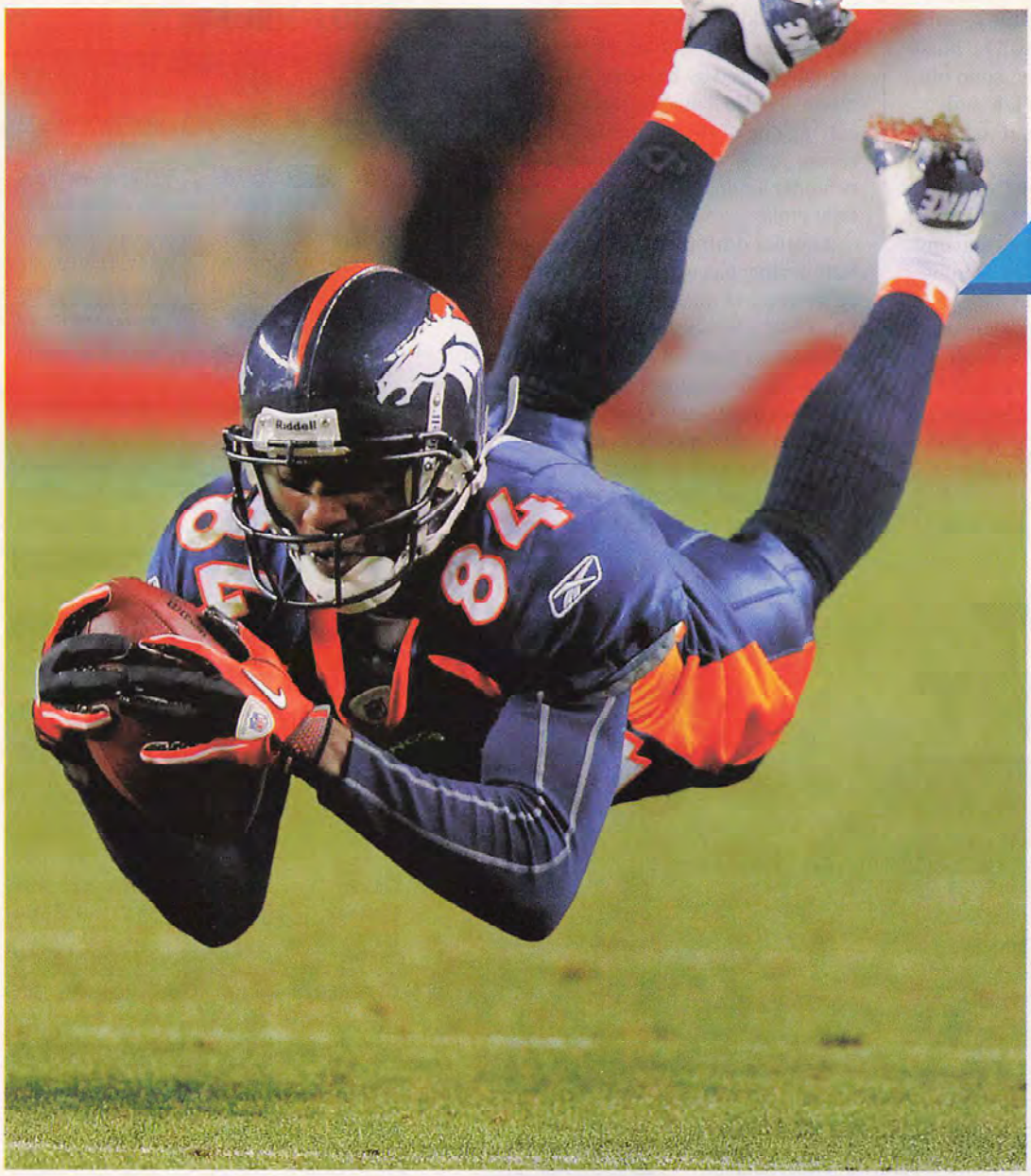
"They're going to blend two-deep and quarter zones. They're going to pressure with fire-zone pressure and things they have done in the past quite successfully. And (Fox is) going to change week to week. He's not going to give you a target to shoot at. He'll have all different things that will change how you have to attack him. He's really a good coach. ...

"I think (Fox is) a good fit in Denver, period. He's a classy guy, a really sound football coach and he's going to stick by his guns. By the same token, while he's going to have a tough football team, he's realistic in how he approaches his players. ... He's a good motivator."

FANTASY SPIN

Brandon Lloyd enjoyed a breakout season at age 29, but Denver's coaching change to the more conservative John Fox could make it impossible for Lloyd to back up that performance.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



JUSTIN EDMONDS / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

BRANDON LLOYD

"You knew he had the talent and the physical attributes, (but) sometimes it just takes time for it to all come together. He's a little like (Brandon) Marshall was. He has size, deep speed. He's a competitive guy. He's a tough matchup one-on-one. We had to double-team him. ...

"One thing that stands out about him is that he's physical. He scares you with his speed, but then he uses his hands and he's a little bit of a bully. When things finally click in Denver, he'll be even better than he was."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	348.9	13
Rushing	96.5	26
Passing	252.4	7
Scoring	344	19
Punt Returns	10.4	16
Kick Returns	24.3	7t
Red Zone TD %	55.8	13
Total Defense	390.8	32
Against Rush	154.6	31
Against Pass	236.2	25
Points Allowed	471	32
Interceptions	10	30t
Sacks	23	32
Turnover Diff.	-9	27t

starting line's athletic abilities.

Left tackle Ryan Clady had a down year after reaching All-Pro status in 2009, but he likely shouldn't have even been playing to start last season. A torn patellar tendon in his knee may have healed by summer but the strength hadn't returned, limiting his ability to slide in protection. Clady should be healthy this season and will be joined by solid veteran Chris Kuper at right guard.

But there are other questions. Rookie second-round pick Orlando Franklin will likely replace Ryan Harris at right tackle. He joins second-year players Zane Beadles and J.D. Walton, who must improve their functional playing strength and gain consistency after serving as full-time rookie starters in 2010. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

The Broncos' defense is a mess and has been for a while, as evidenced by Dennis Allen's hiring as the seventh defensive coordinator since 2000. Fox's philosophy—he favors a large, physical front four and has been known to squeeze the best out of the talent he has—combined with Allen's aggressive mixture of back-seven schemes designed to create havoc and takeaways should be interesting to watch unfold. So should Denver's return to a 4-3 alignment from the 3-4.

Defensive line ▸ A Broncos defense that ranked among the league's worst in almost every major category last season had difficulty applying pressure (23 sacks) and containing the run—particularly to the outside. Most of the 3-4 personnel has been discarded and will be replaced by true 4-3 prototypes.

Denver gets Elvis Dumervil back from a torn pectoral muscle that caused him to

miss all of last season, and the return of the 2009 NFL sack leader will be huge.

The Broncos have gotten solid but not spectacular play from left end Robert Ayers, and he'll need to be a physical force on the edge, regardless of the personnel additions. Denver signed Kevin Vickerson before the lockout to serve as one of its starting tackles, with the other likely coming via free agency. **GRADE: D-**

Linebackers ▸ The Broncos used converted defensive ends such as Ayers and Jason Hunter as outside linebackers last year and the experiment failed. So Fox came in and made athleticism and speed at linebacker a top priority.

Von Miller, the No. 2 overall draft pick, should be a pass-rushing force at strongside linebacker, especially complemented by Dumervil on the other side. He'll also be tasked with solving one of Denver's chief issues in recent years—locating a consistent defender against the pass and opposing tight ends.

Another draft pick, third-rounder Nate Irving, has a legitimate shot to be a starter at middle linebacker. He's known as a heady, intense ballhawk but will have to beat out Mario Haggan and Joe Mays. The young additions leaves D.J. Williams to play his natural weakside linebacker spot. Speedy Wesley Woodyard will be a situational player, helping on passing downs. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸ The Broncos were

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	17-24	Jacksonville Jaguars
09/19	W	31-14	Seattle Seahawks
09/26	L	13-27	Indianapolis Colts
10/03	W	26-20	Tennessee Titans
10/10	L	17-31	Baltimore Ravens
10/17	L	20-24	New York Jets
10/24	L	14-59	Oakland Raiders
10/31	L	16-24	San Francisco 49ers
11/14	W	49-29	Kansas City Chiefs
11/22	L	14-35	San Diego Chargers
11/28	L	33-36	St. Louis Rams
12/05	L	6-10	Kansas City Chiefs
12/12	L	13-43	Arizona Cardinals
12/19	L	23-39	Oakland Raiders
12/26	W	24-23	Houston Texans
01/02	L	28-33	San Diego Chargers

WON 4, LOST 12

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moreno	182	779	4.3	35	5
Tebow	43	227	5.3	40	6
Ball	41	158	3.9	19	0
Buckhalter	59	147	2.5	13	2
Orton	22	98	4.5	14	0
Maroney	36	74	2.1	13	0
Royal	6	61	10.2	20	0
Larsen	3	18	6.0	14	0
Thomas	2	1	0.5	1	0
Colquitt	1	0	0.0	0	0
Brown	2	-1	-0.5	0	0
Lloyd	1	-18	-18.0	-18	0
DENVER	**398**	**1544**	**3.9**	**40**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**531**	**2473**	**4.7**	**71**	**26**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Lloyd	77	1448	18.8	71	11
Gaffney	65	875	13.5	50	2
Royal	59	627	10.6	41	3
Moreno	37	372	10.1	45	3
Buckhalter	28	240	8.6	23	2
Thomas	22	283	12.9	31	2
Graham	18	148	8.2	28	0
Gronkowski	8	65	8.1	13	0
Decker	6	106	17.7	38	1
Larsen	5	51	10.2	29	1
Maroney	4	50	12.5	28	0
Ball	3	16	5.3	13	0
Quinn	1	9	9.0	9	0
Willis	1	17	17.0	17	0
DENVER	**334**	**4307**	**12.9**	**71**	**25**
OPPONENTS	**297**	**3780**	**12.7**	**73**	**26**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Orton	498	293	3653	20	9
Tebow	82	41	654	5	3
DENVER	**580**	**334**	**4307**	**25**	**12**
OPPONENTS	**502**	**297**	**3936**	**26**	**10**

SACKS DENVER 23, OPPONENTS 40

Williams 5.5, Haggan 5, Hunter 3, Dawkins 2, Vickerson 2, Ayers 1.5, Bailey 1, Bannan 1, Thomas 1, Woodyard 1

DRAFT REPORT

Ever since the Broncos chose elite pass rusher **Von Miller** with the No. 2 overall pick, naysayers have been claiming he doesn't fit well in their system. Miller played end in Texas A&M's 4-3 defense and led the NCAA in sacks with 17 in 2009. Last year, he ranked in the top 15 (10.5 sacks). He may be undersized for an end, but Miller has the explosiveness and competitiveness to shine in Denver.

Picking safety **Rahim Moore** in the second round, however, was a bit of a reach. No one doubts his athleticism and productivity in pass coverage, but he's not aggressive in run support and doesn't tackle well. The Broncos salvaged their draft with offensive tackle **Orlando Franklin**, linebacker **Nate Irving** and safety **Quinton Carter**. All were good values who have the ability to become decent starters. Linebacker **Mike Mohamed** and defensive end **Jeremy Beal** fell to the Broncos late. They could develop in time. Denver gambled with tight ends **Julius Thomas** and **Virgil Green**, who are better athletes than football players.

Miller

GRADE

A **B** C D F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	2	Von Miller	OLB	6-3	246	Texas A&M
2	13	Rahim Moore	FS	6-0	202	UCLA
2	14	Orlando Franklin	OT	6-5	316	Miami (Fla.)
3	3	Nate Irving	ILB	6-1	240	N.C. State
4	11	Quinton Carter	FS	6-1	208	Oklahoma
4	32	Julius Thomas	TE	6-5	246	Portland State
6	24	Mike Mohamed	ILB	6-3	239	California
7	1	Virgil Green	TE	6-3	249	Nevada
7	44	Jeremy Beal	OLB	6-2	262	Oklahoma

JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Orton, Kyle	QB	6-4	225	11/14/82	7	Purdue
9 Quinn, Brady	QB	6-3	235	10/27/84	5	Notre Dame
15 Tebow, Tim	QB	6-3	245	8/14/87	2	Florida

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
68 Beadles, Zane	G	6-4	305	11/19/86	2	Utah
63 Byers, Jeff	G	6-3	301	9/7/85	1	USC
78 Clady, Ryan	T	6-6	325	9/6/86	4	Boise State
75 Clark, Chris	T	6-5	315	10/1/85	2	Southern Miss
64 Daniels, Stanley	G	6-4	320	11/30/84	2	Washington
Franklin, Orlando	T	6-5	316	12/16/87	0	Miami (Fla.)
74 Harris, Ryan	T	6-5	300	3/11/85	5	Notre Dame
71 Hochstein, Russ	G	6-4	305	10/7/77	11	Nebraska
73 Kuper, Chris	G	6-4	303	12/19/82	6	North Dakota
Murphy, Shawn	T	6-4	315	12/17/82	3	Utah State
69 Olsen, Eric	G	6-3	305	6/16/88	2	Notre Dame
66 Paxton, Lonie	LS	6-2	265	3/13/78	12	Sacramento State
Taylor, Herb	T	6-3	295	9/22/84	3	TCU
50 Walton, J.D.	C	6-3	305	3/24/87	2	Baylor

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
35 Ball, Lance	RB	5-9	220	6/19/85	3	Maryland
28 Buckhalter, Correll	RB	6-0	223	10/6/78	11	Nebraska
Eckel, Kyle	RB	5-11	237	12/30/81	5	Navy
Johnson, Jeremiah	RB	5-9	218	2/15/87	2	Oregon
26 Maroney, Laurence	RB	5-11	220	2/5/85	6	Minnesota
Minor, Brandon	RB	6-0	214	7/24/88	1	Michigan
27 Moreno, Knowshon	RB	5-11	210	7/16/87	3	Georgia
25 White, LenDale	RB	6-1	235	12/20/84	6	USC

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
85 Coats, Daniel	TE	6-3	264	4/16/84	5	BYU
17 Davis, Britt	WR	6-3	205	4/23/86	1	Northern Illinois
87 Decker, Eric	WR	6-3	220	3/15/87	2	Minnesota
10 Gaffney, Jabar	WR	6-2	200	12/1/80	10	Florida
Green, Virgil	TE	6-3	249	8/3/88	0	Nevada
82 Gronkowski, Dan	TE	6-5	255	1/21/85	2	Maryland
84 Lloyd, Brandon	WR	6-0	194	7/5/81	9	Illinois
81 Quinn, Richard	TE	6-4	255	9/6/86	3	North Carolina
Riley, Eron	WR	6-3	210	8/5/87	1	Duke
19 Royal, Eddie	WR	5-10	180	5/21/86	4	Virginia Tech
88 Thomas, Demaryius	WR	6-3	229	12/25/87	2	Georgia Tech
Thomas, Julius	TE	6-5	246	6/27/88	0	Portland State
12 Willis, Matt	WR	6-0	190	4/13/84	4	UCLA

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Beal, Jeremy	DE	6-2	262	12/2/87	0	Oklahoma
92 Dumervil, Elvis	DE	5-11	248	1/19/84	6	Louisville
91 Fields, Ronald	DT	6-2	314	9/13/81	7	Mississippi State
52 Hunter, Jason	DE	6-4	271	8/28/83	6	Appalachian State
Leonard, Louis	DT	6-4	325	7/16/84	4	Fresno State
98 McBean, Ryan	DE	6-5	297	4/23/84	4	Oklahoma State
79 Thomas, Marcus	DT	6-3	316	9/23/85	5	Florida
Unrein, Mitch	DE	6-4	300	3/25/87	1	Wyoming
90 Veikune, David	DE	6-2	257	12/12/85	3	Hawaii
99 Vickerson, Kevin	DT	6-5	321	1/8/83	6	Michigan State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
24 Bailey, Champ	CB	6-0	192	6/22/78	13	Georgia
30 Bruton, David	S	6-2	211	7/23/87	3	Notre Dame
Carter, Quinton	S	6-1	208	7/20/88	0	Oklahoma
32 Cox, Perrish	CB	5-11	198	1/10/87	2	Oklahoma State
20 Dawkins, Brian	S	6-0	210	10/13/73	16	Clemson
21 Goodman, Andre'	CB	5-10	184	8/11/78	10	South Carolina
23 Hill, Renaldo	S	5-11	205	11/12/78	11	Michigan State
29 Jackson, Chevis	CB	5-11	194	12/11/85	4	LSU
33 Jones, Nate	CB	5-10	185	6/15/82	8	Rutgers
31 McBath, Darcel	S	6-1	198	10/28/85	3	Texas Tech
34 McCarthy, Kyle	S	6-1	210	9/30/86	2	Notre Dame
Moore, Rahim	S	6-0	202	2/11/90	0	UCLA
Polk, Nick	S	5-11	218	10/6/86	1	Indiana
54 Robinson, Lee	LB	6-2	256	4/23/87	1	Alcorn State
22 Thompson, Syd'Quan	CB	5-9	191	2/7/87	2	California
41 Vaughn, Cassius	CB	5-11	195	11/3/87	2	Mississippi

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56 Ayers, Robert	LB	6-3	274	9/6/85	3	Tennessee
Douglas, Dominic	LB	6-1	240	1/13/87	2	Mississippi State
57 Haggan, Mario	LB	6-3	267	3/3/80	9	Mississippi State
Irving, Nate	LB	6-1	240	7/12/88	0	N.C. State
Kelley, Braxton	LB	6-0	230	10/24/86	3	Kentucky
46 Larsen, Spencer	LB	6-2	243	3/4/84	4	Arizona
51 Mays, Joe	LB	5-11	246	7/6/85	4	North Dakota State
McLaughlin, Mike	LB	6-0	245	5/11/87	0	Boston College
Miller, Von	LB	6-3	246	3/26/89	0	Texas A&M
Mohamed, Mike	LB	6-3	239	3/11/88	0	California
55 Williams, D.J.	LB	6-1	242	7/20/82	8	Miami (Fla.)
59 Woodyard, Wesley	LB	6-0	222	7/21/86	4	Kentucky

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	205	3/20/85	2	Tennessee
3 Hauschka, Steven	K	6-4	210	6/29/85	3	N.C. State
5 Prater, Matt	K	5-10	187	8/10/84	5	UCF

JOHN FOX, Head coach

Mike McCoy, offensive coordinator; **Dennis Allen,** defensive coordinator; **Jeff Rodgers,** special teams coordinator; **Clancy Barone,** tight ends; **Keith Burns,** assistant special teams; **Adam Gase,** quarterbacks; **Sam Garnes,** assistant secondary; **Dave Magazu,** offensive line; **Ron Milus,** secondary; **Wayne Nunnely,** defensive line; **Richard Smith,** linebackers; **Eric Studesville,** running backs; **Tyke Tolbert,** wide receivers

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

TE Daniel Graham (FA), **DT Justin Bannan** (FA), **DT Jamal Williams** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JOHN FOX

Fox has been through massive turnarounds before, taking over a 1-15 Carolina team and leading the Panthers to the Super Bowl within two years. His philosophy has been honed from the hard-nosed defenses he saw firsthand with Pittsburgh and the New York Giants as an assistant. Fundamentals will be stressed and opposing weaknesses attacked. However, he's no riverboat gambler on offense. Far from it, in fact.

able to lock up Champ Bailey with a long-term deal before the lockout, erasing one potential headache on a rebuilding defense. Despite turning 33 in June, Bailey remains one of the league's lockdown corners.

Since Denver was getting long in the tooth at safety with 38-year-old Brian Dawkins and 32-year-old Renaldo Hill, the club expended a pair of draft picks to increase the range and speed at the position. Second-round pick Rahim Moore could displace Hill immediately. It's likely Dawkins will stick around and continue his role playing close to the line of scrimmage, where he can still pack a wallop and effectively blitz on occasion. But Denver also added Oklahoma safety Quinton Carter and, if Darcel McBath finally can stay healthy, Dawkins could lose playing time. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Matt Prater was once again solid, hitting six of eight attempts from 40 yards or more, including two of three beyond 50. Prater missed 100 points for the first time during his stint with the Broncos when he suffered a late-season groin injury, but is expected to be fine for 2011.

Long snapper Lonie Paxton is among the best in the business and had no issues last season integrating with second-year punter Britton Colquitt, who knocked 19 tries inside the 20-yard line and averaged a respectable 44.6 yards gross.

Royal is sure-handed and crafty as a punt returner, but Denver could use a long-term answer on kickoff returns, where Decker may get the first opportunity. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

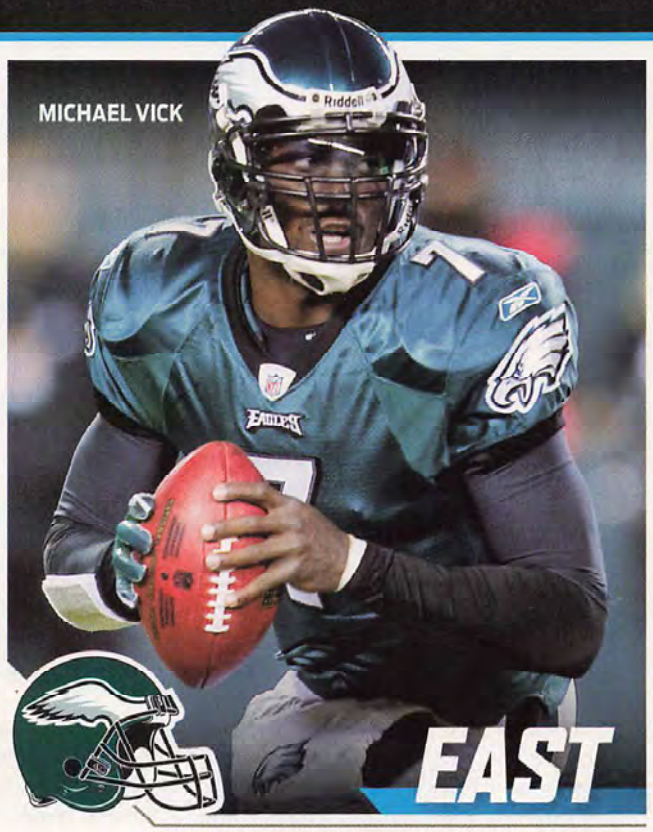
The new triumvirate in charge—Elway, Xanders and Fox—was under no illusions when they took over the team. Their plan began with a solid draft, revolving around the No. 2 pick, and was expected to be followed by some smart middle-tier free-agent signings. But the group knows that while the cupboard isn't bare, there's a lot of Ramen Noodles stocked and not a lot of meat and potatoes.

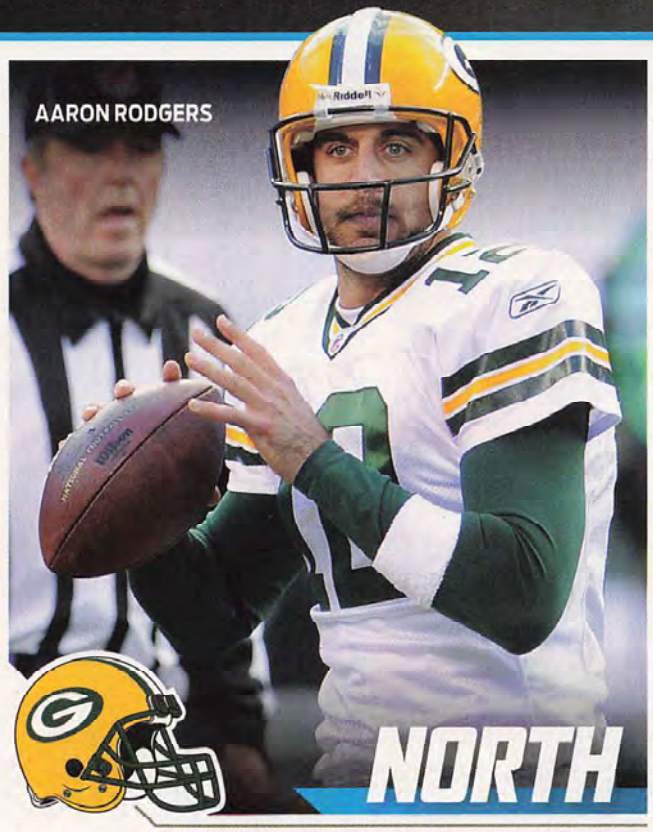
This is more than a one-year process. Coming off a 4-12 mark, even a four-win improvement would be considered major progress. And the Super Bowl aspirations held by all will have to wait at least another year—maybe two—while the personnel is revamped.

68
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

NFC PREDICTIONS





1 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (13-3)

They're loaded more than ever for Andy Reid's style of offense, and that will help them overcome some continued defensive shortcomings. How far Philadelphia can go hinges on Michael Vick staying healthy throughout the season.

2 N.Y. GIANTS (11-5)

They were inconsistent on both sides of the ball last season, with the biggest problems stemming from losing the turnover battle. A better, more careful and consistent Eli Manning will help them there.

3 DALLAS COWBOYS (7-9)

Jason Garrett will push this team closer to the potential that its talented roster has. If the pass defense rebounds and Tony Romo stays healthy, then Dallas can sneak into wild-card contention.

4 WASHINGTON REDSKINS (4-12)

They're doing their best to reset and catch up with the rest of the division, but it's difficult to do that with a constant quarterback shuffle. Mike Shanahan has more than a two-year challenge.

1 GREEN BAY PACKERS (13-3)

They were unfazed by the rash of injuries that limited them last year and found their stride at the right time in the playoffs. This young, talented team with an elite quarterback has the look of a dynasty.

2 DETROIT LIONS (8-8)

Don't look now, but the Lions are starting to roar in the NFC North. Although the team may not end its playoff drought, it should at least give the Packers some trouble.

3 CHICAGO BEARS (8-8)

Many breaks fell their way last season, only to see the run of good fortune end in the NFC title game. There will be a hangover, mainly because the rest of the division has improved.

4 MINNESOTA VIKINGS (5-11)

Christian Ponder might be the answer at quarterback for coach Leslie Frazier, and Frazier's motivational skills over a full season will have a positive effect. It's just that the turnaround will take more than a year.

(L TO R): ANTHONY J. CAUSI; RICH KANE / ICON SMI

WILD-CARD GAMES

GIANTS OVER 49ERS | FALCONS OVER BUCCANEERS

DIVISIONAL GAMES

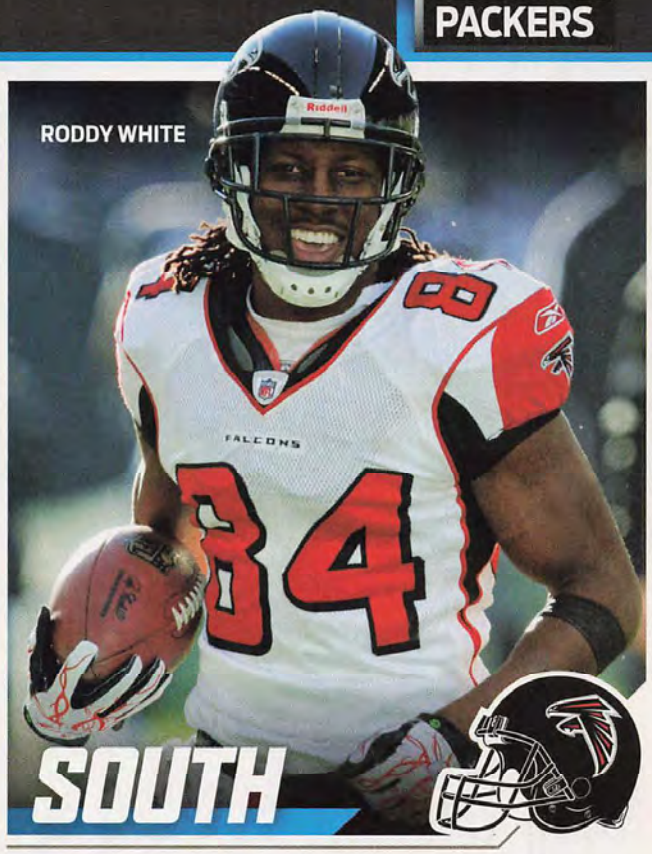
GIANTS OVER EAGLES | PACKERS OVER FALCONS

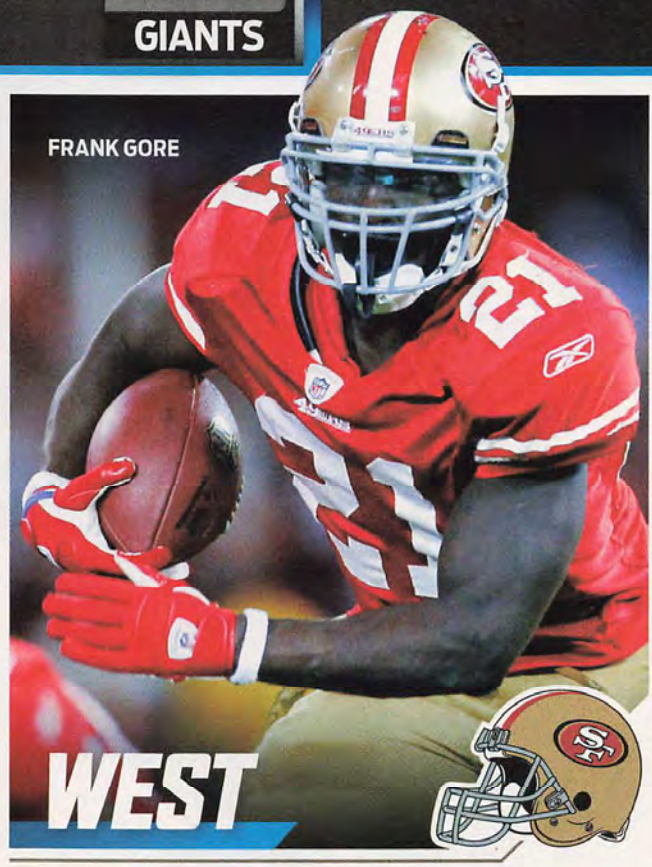
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

PACKERS OVER GIANTS

SUPER BOWL 46

PACKERS OVER PATRIOTS





1 ATLANTA FALCONS (10-6)

Their record may not be as good this season because of tougher competition in the NFC, starting with the Falcons' own division. But with more offensive pop and a more seasoned defense, they still are on the short list of Super Bowl favorites.

2 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (10-6)

If they're able to match last season's record, they will get into the playoffs. The offense is coming together nicely under QB Josh Freeman, and coach Raheem Morris can start feeling better about his defense.

3 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (9-7)

They had some defensive concerns exposed in their stunning playoff loss at Seattle, but Drew Brees is too good of a passer and leader to let them slide out of contention for at least a wild-card berth.

4 CAROLINA PANTHERS (3-13)

Carolina won't be nearly as inept offensively as last season, but this division is tough and the three other teams have also gotten better. It will take a while before No. 1 overall pick Cam Newton finds his stride.

1 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (9-7)

Staying in the Bay to land Jim Harbaugh will pay immediate dividends. San Francisco's quarterback play will be better under the former NFL signal-caller, and new coordinator Vic Fangio will also have a big effect on the 3-4 defense.

2 ST. LOUIS RAMS (7-9)

Sam Bradford should be mentored well by new coordinator Josh McDaniels, although it might take a littler longer than expected before the QB gets up to speed in a new offense with younger personnel. The defense also may not be ready to break even.

3 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (5-11)

They are focused on becoming a strong running team, but that can carry their offense only so far in a passing league. The quarterback concern is significant and bound to keep Seattle at a sub-.500 mark.

4 ARIZONA CARDINALS (4-12)

Before they can get back to being a contender in this division, the Cardinals need to rediscover an effective passing game with a competent quarterback. Without that, their defense and running game won't help much.

(L TO R): TLEN LAMÉ; RIC TAPIA / ICON SMI

PHILADELPHIA
EAGLES
LESEAN
McCOY
RB
Riddell
25
EAGLES

With Vick now running the show, sky's the limit for the Eagles

By Geoff Mosher Wilmington (Del.) News-Journal

Last year was supposed to be a new beginning for coach Andy Reid and his young starting quarterback, Kevin Kolb. But two weeks into the season, the road detoured. Kolb was out, Michael Vick was in and the Eagles went from borderline playoff contender to Super Bowl threat. Although they lost to eventual champion Green Bay in a wild-card game, the groundwork was laid for another Super Bowl run in 2011.

If Vick can take another step in his development and become an accurate passer and Reid can patch holes on the offensive line and in the secondary, the Eagles will enter this season as one of the favorites to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

OFFENSE

Play-calling didn't change after last year's abrupt quarterback switch from Kolb to Vick, but the offensive flow shifted dramatically. Vick's sudden transformation into an efficient, accurate passer allowed Reid to maintain his standard 65-percent passing ratio. His arm strength maximized wide receiver DeSean Jackson's top-end vertical speed, giving the offense a dynamic presence that defenses were forced to respect.

Also, Vick's still-dangerous scrambling ability helped the offense overcome a year's worth of injuries and subpar pass protection from the right side of the offensive line.

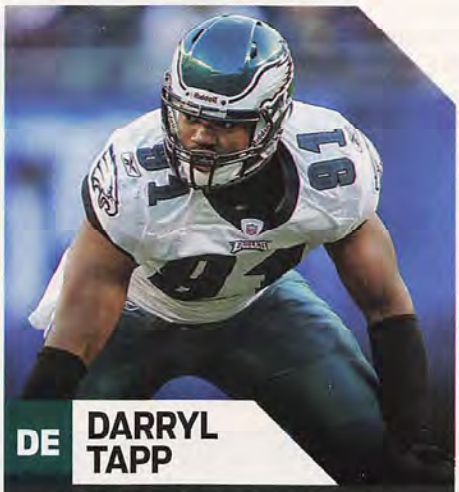
Quarterbacks ➤ You'd be hard-pressed to find an NFL player who resurrected his career better than Vick, who became a starter again for the first time since 2006 and smashed his previous personal bests in passing yards, quarterback rating and completion percentage. But Vick's body absorbed too much punishment over the long haul due to shoddy pass protection from the offensive line.

By December, he had worn down and his play leveled off. It's no coincidence that Vick's two worst games of the year were his last two, including a first-round playoff loss to Green Bay. With improved pocket presence and a quicker release, his second NFL career could make the Eagles annual Super Bowl contenders for as long as he's pulling the trigger.

Kolb, who is under contract but has asked for a trade, handled his demotion with professionalism and then went 2-1 during a three-game stretch when Vick was sidelined, showing his value as a backup. **GRADE: B+**

Running backs ➤ The team showed faith in running back LeSean McCoy's ability to handle the primary-ballcarrier role last offseason when it cut ties with aging and injury-prone franchise star Brian Westbrook. McCoy responded by becoming one of the NFL's most versatile backs, totaling 1,080 yards and averaging 5.2 yards per carry while also leading the team with 78 receptions for an additional 592 yards.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



DE DARRYL TAPP

Expect a better sophomore campaign from Tapp, who came over last season in a trade with Seattle and adjusted to an unfamiliar role as a nickel defensive tackle. New line coach Jim Washburn's impact should accent Tapp's pass-rushing acumen. Look for at least six sacks off the bench.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 4-4

➤ **ONLINE:** www.philadelphiaeagles.com
➤ **STADIUM:** Lincoln Financial Field
Capacity: 68,532 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 215-463-5500
➤ **TRAINING CAMP:** Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.; 610-758-3000

EAGLES' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1t	Eric Allen *(1988-94)*	34	1t	Bill Bradley *(1969-76)*	34	1t	Brian Dawkins *(1996-2008)*	34

NFC EAST **1**

SN PICK **13-3**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Michael Vick Mike Kafka
FB	Owen Schmitt Stanley Havili
RB	LeSean McCoy Dion Lewis
LT	Jason Peters Austin Howard
LG	Todd Herremans Max Jean-Gilles
C	Jamaal Jackson Jason Kelce
RG	Danny Watkins Julian Vandervelde
RT	Winston Justice King Dunlap
TE	Brent Celek Clay Harbor
WR	DeSean Jackson Riley Cooper
WR	Jeremy Maclin Jason Avant
DEFENSE	
DE	Juqua Parker Brandon Graham
DT	Antonio Dixon Brodrick Bunkley
DT	Mike Patterson Trevor Laws
DE	Trent Cole Darryl Tapp
SLB	Stewart Bradley Moise Fokou
MLB	Jamar Chaney Casey Matthews
WLB	Keenan Clayton Brian Rolle
LCB	Asante Samuel Dimitri Patterson
SS	Quintin Mikell Kurt Coleman
FS	Nate Allen Jaiquawn Jarrett
RCB	Trevard Lindley Joselio Hanson
SPECIALISTS	
K	Alex Henery
P	Sav Rocca
KR	Jorrick Calvin
PR	Chad Hall
LS	Jon Dorenbos

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE PAGE: DREW HALLOWELL / PHILADELPHIA EAGLES / GETTY IMAGES

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ ST. LOUIS	SEPT. 11 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 2	@ ATLANTA	SEPT. 18 8:20	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 3	N.Y. GIANTS	SEPT. 25 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 4	SAN FRANCISCO	OCT. 2 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 5	@ BUFFALO	OCT. 9 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 6	@ WASHINGTON	OCT. 16 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 7	OPEN		
WEEK 8	DALLAS	OCT. 30 8:20	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 9	CHICAGO	NOV. 7 8:30	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 10	ARIZONA	NOV. 13 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 11	@ N.Y. GIANTS	NOV. 20 8:20	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 12	NEW ENGLAND	NOV. 27 4:15	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 13	@ SEATTLE	DEC. 1 8:20	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 14	@ MIAMI	DEC. 11 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 15	N.Y. JETS	DEC. 18 4:15	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 16	@ DALLAS	DEC. 24 4:15	W L
		— SCORE	
WEEK 17	WASHINGTON	JAN. 1 1:00	W L
		— SCORE	

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

His development as a reliable pass catcher helped him grow into a dangerous weapon in an offense that doesn't emphasize the power running game. McCoy's speed and lateral quickness are ideal for the position, but he still needs to add muscle and become a greater presence in short-yardage and goal-line scenarios.

Backups Jerome Harrison and Eldra Buckley were used sparingly and aren't suited for the West Coast offense. The team picked Pittsburgh's Dion Lewis in the draft and might consider him as another do-everything body behind McCoy. Fullback Owen Schmitt's blocking was a pleasant surprise, especially in protection schemes, after Leonard Weaver tore up his knee in the season opener. Newcomer Stanley Havili, a versatile fullback like Weaver, can push both for the starting job. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ After years of missing on drafted wideouts—Freddie Mitchell, Reggie Brown, Billy McMullen—the Eagles finally hit on Jackson, Jeremy Maclin and Jason Avant. In 2010, the trio combined for 168 receptions, 2,593 receiving yards and 17 touchdown receptions. Jackson (22.5 yards per catch) is one of the NFL's top deep threats, but Maclin is the more complete weapon.

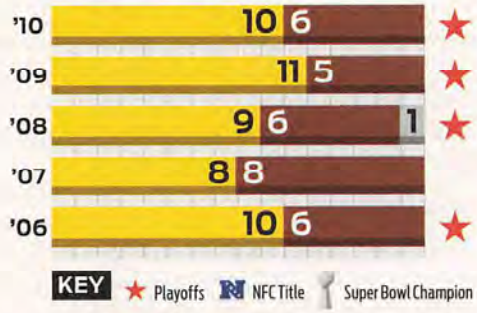
In just his second season, Maclin's 10 touchdown catches led the club and showed his rapid acclimation into an offense much more complex than his college scheme. Avant, the quintessential slot receiver, compensates for modest speed with sure hands on third downs, toughness across the middle and superb downfield blocking.

The coaching staff's main challenge is to get Jackson more involved against deep zones and also capitalize on Riley Cooper's height. Jackson tends to become invisible when not involved early, and Cooper, entering his second year, is the team's tallest wide receiver at 6-3. Tight end Brent Celek's production dropped in 2010 after he burst onto the scene the year before. The decline is traceable to the team's reliance on max-protection schemes. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸ The breakdown of this unit started early, when Reid traded away high-priced right guard Stacy Andrews just before the season opener and settled on an inadequate platoon of Max Jean-Gilles and Nick Cole. The team lost veteran center Jamaal Jackson to a biceps tear in the season opener, and right tackle Winston Justice's late-season knee injury led to the collapse of the right side of the line and vulnerability against the pass rush that hampered Vick's play.

But Reid used the draft to make upgrades, starting with first-rounder Danny Watkins, who should step in immediately at either guard spot. Fifth-round guard Julian Vandervelde and sixth-round center Jason Kelce will compete for immediate reserve spots on the inside. Watkins will team with All-Pro left tackle Jason Peters and underrated left guard

5-YEAR RECORD: 48-31-1



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Eagles)

"They have a really fast offense—(Jeremy) Maclin, DeSean (Jackson), (Michael) Vick and 'Shady' (LeSean McCoy). The tight end (Brent Celek) can even get down the middle of the field. Their team is always going to be fast and quick. The only bad thing I see with Philly is they're a big-hit team. They're not going to pound you. They don't have a bruising halfback. That's where I think Green Bay haunted them (in the playoffs). They got into that mode of wanting to pass, and Green Bay wanted to force them to do that. ...

"On defense, they don't have a lot of natural pass rushers, but the last two drafts they've drafted pretty good players. That's what I like about their picks. They're trying to find a way to keep it balanced. But I don't think they have playmakers (on defense). (Asante) Samuel, I guess you can say is a cover corner, but I don't think he's a tackler. To me, he's more like a great cover 2 corner that knows how to bait you."

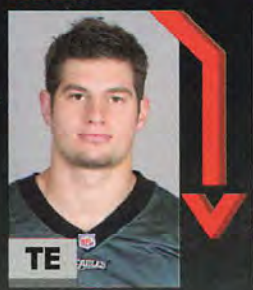
FANTASY SPIN

Michael Vick averaged 32.6 fantasy points per full game in 2010. If he can stay healthy and come close to that performance, he's easily the No. 1 fantasy quarterback.

BUY

LeSean McCoy

SELL

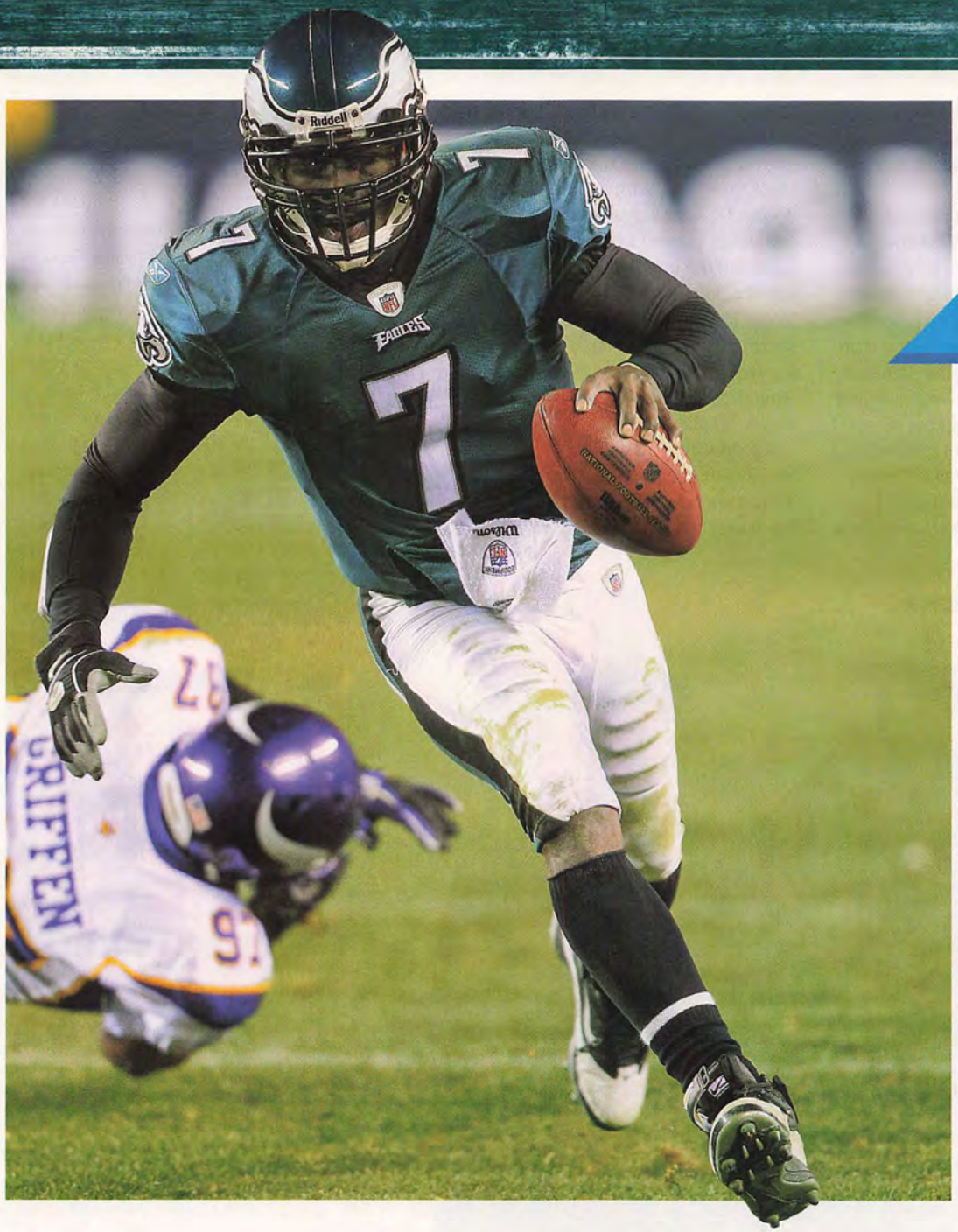


Brent Celek

SLEEPER

Alex Henery

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

THE BOOK ON ...

MICHAEL VICK

"He's very poised and he's got a lot of weapons. That's one of the reasons why they've had this success. He has handled himself extremely well. I've been watching Michael since he has come into the league, and to watch the poise he's playing with right now is really amazing ...

"When I was in San Francisco and had Steve Young, Steve Young could do it all. He could sit back there and read. When he had to make a play when things would break down, he could make plays on his feet. That's what it looks like Michael is doing. He can sit back there pretty poised and obviously is very fast and elusive. ... It's a pretty big change when a guy can make plays in the zone."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	389.4	2
Rushing	145.2	5
Passing	244.1	9
Scoring	439	3
Punt Returns	10.6	12
Kick Returns	20.5	25
Red Zone TD %	53.4	14
Total Defense	327.2	12
Against Rush	110.4	15
Against Pass	216.8	14t
Points Allowed	377	21t
Interceptions	23	3
Sacks	39	10t
Turnover Diff.	9	5t

Todd Herremans to reinvigorate the most critical unit of Reid's offense. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

The team promoted longtime offensive line coach Juan Castillo to defensive coordinator and brought in renowned defensive line coach Jim Washburn in an attempt to remedy an ineffective pass rush and abysmal red-zone defense that cost Sean McDermott his job.

Castillo, a former linebacker, has hinted that he'll be more involved with coaxing production out of his linebackers and defensive backs, while Washburn will preside over defensive-line rotations and personnel.

Defensive line ▸ Reviving the pass rush is the defense's main objective in 2011. The man in charge of carrying out this mission is Washburn, who burnished a reputation of getting pressure from his front four in Tennessee. Washburn's chest of pass rushers isn't bare, but the team has underperformed for the past two years. Trent Cole is the most consistent edge presence, but double teams often swallow him up.

Brandon Graham, a 2010 first-round pick, is coming off ACL surgery and probably won't be ready for the opener. Reserve ends Darryl Tapp and Juqua Parker are streaky. Newcomer Phillip Hunt, who set the CFL sacks record, is untested at the NFL level.

Mike Patterson is an effective run stuffer but leaves the field in nickel situations. An elbow injury reduced Brodrick Bunkley to part-time duties last season and opened the door for Antonio Dixon's emergence. Trevor Laws underperformed his first two years but broke out in 2010 and aspires to start.

The Eagles hope Washburn's impact creates more pressure from his linemen and allows Castillo to choose blitzes more judiciously. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers ▸ No position on the Eagles lacks more stability than the linebacker unit. Philadelphia hasn't used a first-round pick on a linebacker since 1979 and didn't have a homegrown one on the roster last season drafted higher than the third round. As a result, the names at all three positions change every year, and often change in the middle of the season.

The surprising late-season play of 2010 seventh-round pick Jamar Chaney in the middle and the addition of '11 fourth-round pick Casey Matthews allow the Eagles to move Stewart Bradley from the middle to the strong side, where he played in college. Bradley, who missed the 2009 season with a torn ACL, had ups and downs in his first year back and didn't cement himself as the future starter in the middle. Last year's strong-side 'backer, 2009 seventh-round pick Moise Fokou, will compete with 2010 fourth-round pick Keenan Clayton on the weak side, with rookie sixth-rounder Brian Rolle also hoping to burst onto the scene. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸ The unquestioned star here is left cornerback Asante Samuel, a Pro Bowl selection in each of his three seasons with the Eagles. Samuel

DRAFT REPORT

For a talented and deep playoff team, the Eagles scored as many as seven future starters. First-round pick **Danny Watkins** will start at either left or right guard (or even right tackle), while **Julian Vandervelde** and **Jason Kelce** will add depth to the offensive front.

Safety **Jaiquawn Jarrett**, cornerback **Curtis Marsh** and linebackers **Casey Matthews**, **Brian Rolle** and **Greg Lloyd** may all be competitive this season for the defense. Choosing kicker **Alex Henery** in the fourth round could signal the end of David Akers' time in Philadelphia. Running back **Dion Lewis** will join fellow Pitt alumnus LeSean McCoy in the Eagles' backfield, while **Stanley Havili** may start at fullback or come in on third downs immediately.

Watkins

GRADE B+

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	23	Danny Watkins	G	6-3	310	Baylor
2	22	Jaiquawn Jarrett	FS	6-0	196	Temple
3	26	Curtis Marsh	CB	6-0	194	Utah State
4	19	Casey Matthews	ILB	6-1	231	Oregon
4	23	Alex Henery	K	6-2	177	Nebraska
5	18	Dion Lewis	RB	5-7	193	Pittsburgh
5	30	Julian Vandervelde	G	6-2	301	Iowa
6	26	Jason Kelce	C	6-3	280	Cincinnati
6	28	Brian Rolle	OLB	5-10	229	Ohio State
7	34	Greg Lloyd	ILB	6-1	246	Connecticut
7	37	Stanley Havili	FB	6-0	227	USC

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	20-27	Green Bay Packers
09/19	W	35-32	Detroit Lions
09/26	W	28-3	Jacksonville Jaguars
10/03	L	12-17	Washington Redskins
10/10	W	27-24	San Francisco 49ers
10/17	W	31-17	Atlanta Falcons
10/24	L	19-37	Tennessee Titans
11/07	W	26-24	Indianapolis Colts
11/15	W	59-28	Washington Redskins
11/21	W	27-17	New York Giants
11/28	L	26-31	Chicago Bears
12/02	W	34-24	Houston Texans
12/12	W	30-27	Dallas Cowboys
12/19	W	38-31	New York Giants
12/28	L	14-24	Minnesota Vikings
01/02	L	13-14	Dallas Cowboys

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McCoy	207	1080	5.2	62	7
Vick	100	676	6.8	35	9
Harrison	40	239	6.0	50	1
Jackson	16	104	6.5	31	1
Buckley	21	67	3.2	13	0
Kolb	15	65	4.3	19	0
Maclin	3	36	12.0	14	0
Hall	9	29	3.2	8	0
Bell	16	28	1.8	9	0
Weaver	1	0	0.0	0	0
PHILADELPHIA	**428**	**2324**	**5.4**	**62**	**18**
OPPONENTS	**423**	**1766**	**4.2**	**61**	**12**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McCoy	78	592	7.6	40	2
Maclin	70	964	13.8	83	10
Avant	51	573	11.2	34	1
Jackson	47	1056	22.5	91	6
Celek	42	511	12.2	65	4
Schmitt	19	136	7.2	18	1
Hall	11	115	10.5	48	1
Harbor	9	72	8.0	24	1
Harrison	8	43	5.4	15	0
Cooper	7	116	16.6	37	1
Mills	2	19	9.5	14	0
Buckley	1	10	10.0	10	0
Bell	1	5	5.0	5	0
Herremans	1	2	2.0	2	1
McGlynn	1	1	1.0	1	0
PHILADELPHIA	**348**	**4215**	**12.1**	**91**	**28**
OPPONENTS	**309**	**3469**	**11.2**	**80**	**31**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Vick	372	233	3018	21	6
Kolb	189	115	1197	7	7
PHILADELPHIA	**561**	**348**	**4215**	**28**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**536**	**309**	**3761**	**31**	**23**

SACKS PHILADELPHIA 39, OPPONENTS 49

Cole 10, Parker 6, Laws 4, Graham 3, Tapp 3, Dixon 2, M. Patterson 2, Sims 2, Bradley 1, Fokou 1, Mikell 1, D. Patterson 1, Te'o-Nesheim 1

JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Kafka, Mike	QB	6-3	225	7/25/87	2	Northwestern
4 Kolb, Kevin	QB	6-3	218	8/24/84	5	Houston
7 Vick, Michael	QB	6-0	215	6/26/80	10	Virginia Tech

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Cole, Nick	C	6-0	339	7/28/84	6	New Mexico State
46 Dorenbos, Jon	C	6-0	250	7/21/80	9	UTEP
65 Dunlap, King	T	6-9	330	9/14/85	4	Auburn
79 Herremans, Todd	T	6-6	321	10/13/82	7	Saginaw Valley State
68 Howard, Austin	T	6-7	333	3/22/87	2	Northern Iowa
67 Jackson, Jamaal	C	6-4	325	5/8/80	8	Delaware State
62 Jean-Gilles, Max	G	6-3	358	11/19/83	6	Georgia
74 Justice, Winston	T	6-6	320	9/14/84	6	USC
Kelce, Jason	C	6-3	280	11/5/87	0	Cincinnati
77 McGlynn, Mike	T	6-4	315	3/8/85	4	Pittsburgh
71 Peters, Jason	T	6-4	340	1/22/82	8	Arkansas
66 Reynolds, Dallas	C	6-4	320	4/23/84	1	BYU
61 Shipley, A.Q.	C	6-1	315	5/22/86	1	Penn State
Tupou, Fenuki	T	6-5	323	5/2/85	2	Oregon
Vandervelde, Julian	G	6-2	301	10/7/87	0	Iowa
Watkins, Danny	G	6-3	310	11/6/84	0	Baylor
76 Wells, Reggie	G	6-4	318	11/3/80	9	Clarion

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Buckley, Eldra	RB	5-9	207	6/23/85	3	Chattanooga
33 Harrison, Jerome	RB	5-9	205	2/26/83	6	Washington State
Havili, Stanley	RB	6-0	227	11/14/87	0	USC
Lewis, Dion	RB	5-7	193	9/27/90	0	Pittsburgh
25 McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-11	208	7/12/88	3	Pittsburgh
32 Schmitt, Owen	RB	6-2	245	2/13/85	4	West Virginia
43 Weaver, Leonard	RB	6-0	250	9/23/82	7	Carson-Newman

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
81 Avant, Jason	WR	6-0	212	4/20/83	6	Michigan
87 Celek, Brent	TE	6-4	255	1/25/85	5	Cincinnati
14 Cooper, Riley	WR	6-3	222	9/9/87	2	Florida
16 Hall, Chad	WR	5-8	187	5/23/86	2	Air Force
82 Harbor, Clay	TE	6-3	252	7/2/87	2	Missouri State
Harper, Rod	WR	6-0	209	3/26/85	2	Murray State
88 Ingram, Cornelius	TE	6-4	250	6/10/85	2	Florida
10 Jackson, DeSean	WR	5-10	175	12/1/86	4	California
18 Marlin, Jeremy	WR	6-0	198	5/11/88	3	Missouri
Moss, Sinorice	WR	5-8	185	12/28/83	6	Miami (Fla.)
Natbone, John	TE	6-4	255	5/14/86	1	Monmouth (N.J.)
Williams, Jeremy	WR	6-0	206	1/23/87	1	Tulane

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95 Abiamiri, Victor	DE	6-4	267	1/14/86	5	Notre Dame
97 Bunkley, Brodrick	DT	6-2	306	11/23/83	6	Florida State
63 Clark, Jeremy	DT	6-3	295	9/6/83	2	Alabama
58 Cole, Trent	DE	6-3	270	10/5/82	7	Cincinnati
90 Dixon, Antonio	DT	6-3	322	7/17/85	3	Miami (Fla.)
54 Graham, Brandon	DE	6-1	268	4/3/88	2	Michigan
93 Laws, Trevor	DT	6-1	304	6/14/85	4	Notre Dame
73 McCray, Bobby	DE	6-6	260	8/8/81	7	Florida
64 Owens, Jeff	DT	6-1	304	10/14/86	1	Georgia
98 Patterson, Mike	DT	6-1	300	9/1/83	7	USC
94 Sapp, Ricky	DE	6-4	252	11/14/86	2	Clemson
91 Tapp, Darryl	DE	6-1	270	9/13/84	6	Virginia Tech
52 Te'o-Nesheim, Daniel	DE	6-3	263	6/12/87	2	Washington
75 Parker, Juqua	DE	6-2	250	5/15/78	11	Oklahoma State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
45 Adams, Jamar	S	6-2	215	11/29/85	3	Michigan
29 Allen, Nate	S	6-1	210	11/30/87	2	South Florida
30 Anderson, Colt	CB	5-10	194	10/25/85	2	Montana
38 Calvin, Jorrick	CB	5-11	184	7/17/87	2	Troy
42 Coleman, Kurt	S	5-10	195	7/1/88	2	Ohio State
21 Hanson, Joselio	CB	5-9	185	8/13/81	7	Texas Tech
41 Harris, Antoine	S	5-10	205	4/8/82	5	Louisville
31 Hobbs, Ellis	CB	5-9	195	5/16/83	7	Iowa State
24 Hughes, Brandon	CB	5-10	188	5/23/86	3	Oregon State
28 Jackson, Marlin	S	6-0	196	6/30/83	7	Michigan
Jarrett, Jaiquawn	S	6-0	196	9/21/89	0	Temple
47 Lawson, Gerard	CB	5-10	195	1/12/85	3	Oregon State
35 Lindley, Trevard	CB	5-11	183	2/2/86	2	Kentucky
Marsh, Curtis	CB	6-0	194	3/1/88	0	Utah State
27 Mikell, Quintin	S	5-10	203	9/16/80	9	Boise State
23 Patterson, Dimitri	CB	5-10	200	6/18/83	6	Tuskegee
22 Samuel, Asante	CB	5-10	185	1/6/81	9	Central Florida
Trufant, Isaiah	CB	5-7	160	12/9/82	1	Eastern Washington
37 Wall, Jamar	CB	5-10	202	1/10/88	1	Texas Tech

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Bradley, Stewart	LB	6-4	258	11/2/83	5	Nebraska
51 Chaney, Jamar	LB	6-0	242	10/11/86	2	Mississippi State
57 Clayton, Keenan	LB	6-1	229	6/19/87	2	Oklahoma
53 Fokou, Moise	LB	6-1	236	8/28/85	3	Maryland
96 Gaither, Omar	LB	6-2	235	3/18/84	6	Tennessee
Hunt, Phillip	LB	6-0	244	1/9/86	0	Houston
Jeanty, Rashad	LB	6-2	243	4/17/83	5	UCF
56 Jordan, Akeem	LB	6-1	230	8/17/85	5	James Madison
Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-1	246	2/10/89	0	Connecticut
Matthews, Casey	LB	6-1	231	1/16/89	0	Oregon
Rolle, Brian	LB	5-10	229	11/20/88	0	Ohio State
50 Sims, Ernie	LB	6-0	230	12/23/84	6	Florida State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Akers, David	K	5-10	200	12/9/74	13	Louisville
Henery, Alex	K	6-2	177	8/18/87	0	Nebraska
6 Rocca, Sav	P	6-5	265	11/20/73	5	None

ANDY REID, Head coach

Marty Mornhinweg, asst. head coach/offensive coordinator; **Juan Castillo,** defensive coordinator; **Bobby April,** special teams coordinator; **Mike Caldwell,** linebackers; **David Culley,** wide receivers; **Johnnie Lynn,** secondary/cornerbacks; **Tom Melvin,** tight ends; **Howard Mudd,** offensive line; **Doug Pederson,** quarterbacks; **Jim Washburn,** defensive line; **Ted Williams,** running backs; **Michael Zordich,** secondary/safeties

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

ANDY REID

Reid, a proven quarterback guru, runs a pass-friendly system that gives his QB multiple options and an aggressive attack strategy. But Reid's persistent problems with clock management, replay-challenge judgment and assembling a championship-caliber defense make skeptics doubt his ability to win "The Big One."

had seven interceptions in his first 10 games of 2010 but was limited down the stretch by a serious knee injury. The team lacks a playmaker opposite Samuel. Ellis Hobbs won't be back and veteran Joselio Hanson is a solid corner but works exclusively from the slot. Dimitri Patterson started games at right corner last season but didn't seize the job. Second-year corner Trevard Lindley only played sporadically in his rookie season and 2011 third-round pick Curtis Marsh is a project who started his college career at running back.

At safety, the team is long on upside but short on experience. Quintin Mikell's status is up in the air as a free agent. The eight-year pro is the team's only safety with more than three years of experience. Nate Allen, last year's impressive second-round pick who won the starting free-safety job, is coming off patellar tendon surgery (although he's on track to be ready for camp).

The team has high hopes that 2011 second-round pick Jaiquawn Jarrett can step in immediately like Allen did last year. Reserve safety Kurt Coleman, who made some starts last season when injuries hit the secondary hard, has starting potential and can also contribute in dime schemes. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

David Akers has set every major team kicking record, but he missed two easy field goals in the team's five-point playoff loss to Green Bay and is likely to be replaced by 2011 fourth-round pick Alex Henery. Cannon-legged Sav Rocca is coming off his most consistent year at punter and shouldn't have a problem keeping his job.

The team lost its explosive edge in the punt return game by replacing Jackson with defensive back Jorrick Calvin, but the move made sense to limit hits on Jackson. Calvin also returned kicks but struggled with ball security and field vision last year. Don't be surprised if the team goes with auditions at camp for both return roles. **GRADE: B-**

BOTTOM LINE

The team's chance of going to the Super Bowl depends on three main areas: the offensive line's improvement, Vick's continued development and the defense's adjustment to the new coaches. The first two go hand-in-hand, as Vick's maturation can't happen if the line doesn't protect him. The third depends on injuries. The team has two defensive starters coming off major offseason surgery. If those three criteria are met, there's no limit to what the Eagles can accomplish.

91
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

2

NFC EAST

SN PICK **11-5**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Eli Manning Sage Rosenfels
FB	Bear Pascoe Madison Hedgecock
RB	Ahmad Bradshaw Brandon Jacobs
LT	David Diehl Will Beatty
LG	Rich Seubert Kevin Boothe
C	Shaun O'Hara Adam Koets
RG	Chris Snee Mitch Petrus
RT	Kareem McKenzie Will Beatty
TE	Kevin Boss Travis Beckum
WR	Hakeem Nicks Ramses Barden
WR	Steve Smith Mario Manningham
DEFENSE	
DE	Justin Tuck Jason Pierre-Paul
DT	Barry Cofield Marvin Austin
DT	Chris Canty Linval Joseph
DE	Osi Umenyiora Dave Tollefson
SLB	Clint Sintim Chase Blackburn
MLB	Jonathan Goff Phillip Dillard
WLB	Michael Boley Chase Blackburn
LCB	Corey Webster Prince Amukamara
SS	Kenny Phillips Deon Grant
FS	Antrel Rolle Brian Jackson
RCB	Terrell Thomas Aaron Ross
SPECIALISTS	
K	Lawrence Tynes
P	Matt Dodge
KR	Domenik Hixon
PR	Domenik Hixon
LS	Zak DeOssie

After falling short last year, expect Giant rebound into the postseason

By Paul Schwartz New York Post

The Giants of 2010 were good enough to just miss the playoffs.

They finished 10-6 after yet another alarming late-season swoon, losing two of their last three games to ensure the postseason would be spent at home. The main reason was a troubling 42 turnovers, which led the NFL.

The Giants believe they hurt themselves more than the opponent hurt them and that their roster is now poised for another playoff push.

Danger areas include an offensive line with three interior linemen coming off surgeries and at linebacker, where the front office has failed to import or develop a true impact player. Still, there should be enough veterans on hand to steer this squad into the postseason.

OFFENSE

Coordinator Kevin Gilbride runs a balanced attack and gives QB Eli Manning plenty of leeway with changing calls at the line of scrimmage. The system is detail-oriented and difficult for receivers, asking them to read coverages and make several adjustments on every play—making it a high-risk, high-reward operation that inherently has difficulty plugging new or inexperienced wideouts into the attack.

The Giants like to think of themselves as a power running team that can rely on movement from their guards. At times in 2010 they moved the ball virtually at will, but the slew of turnovers continually hurt the cause.

Quarterbacks ▸ Last season marked a roller-coaster ride for Manning. He completed a career-high 62.9 percent of his passes for a career-best 31 touchdowns. However, the huge downside was his 25 interceptions, by far the most of Manning's career.

At times he threw the ball better than ever and Manning is now in the prime of his career. The entire offense revolves around him, and his ability to get the team out of bad plays and into good ones is impressive. His durability is also notable, as he has started 103 consecutive games (110 counting the postseason).

There's no doubt this is Manning's team. Sage Rosenfels was signed to provide a veteran presence last year, but did not throw a pass in his first year with the club. **GRADE: B+**

Running backs ▸ There was a changing of the guard in the backfield for the Giants last year, as Ahmad Bradshaw supplanted Brandon Jacobs as the starter and top rusher. Bradshaw (1,235 yards, 8 TDs) had his best season and showed that his surgically repaired feet could hold up through the grind of a season.

Jacobs (823 yards, 9 TDs) averaged 5.6 yards per attempt and, looking back, should

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DE JASON PIERRE-PAUL

Pierre-Paul arrived as a raw rookie but his physical ability was so special that he managed to get 4.5 sacks and emerge as a terror on special teams. With a year under his belt and far more knowledge of technique and leverage, Pierre-Paul could be a force in 2011.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.giants.com
- **STADIUM:** New Meadowlands Stadium

Capacity: 82,500 **Turf:** FieldTurf

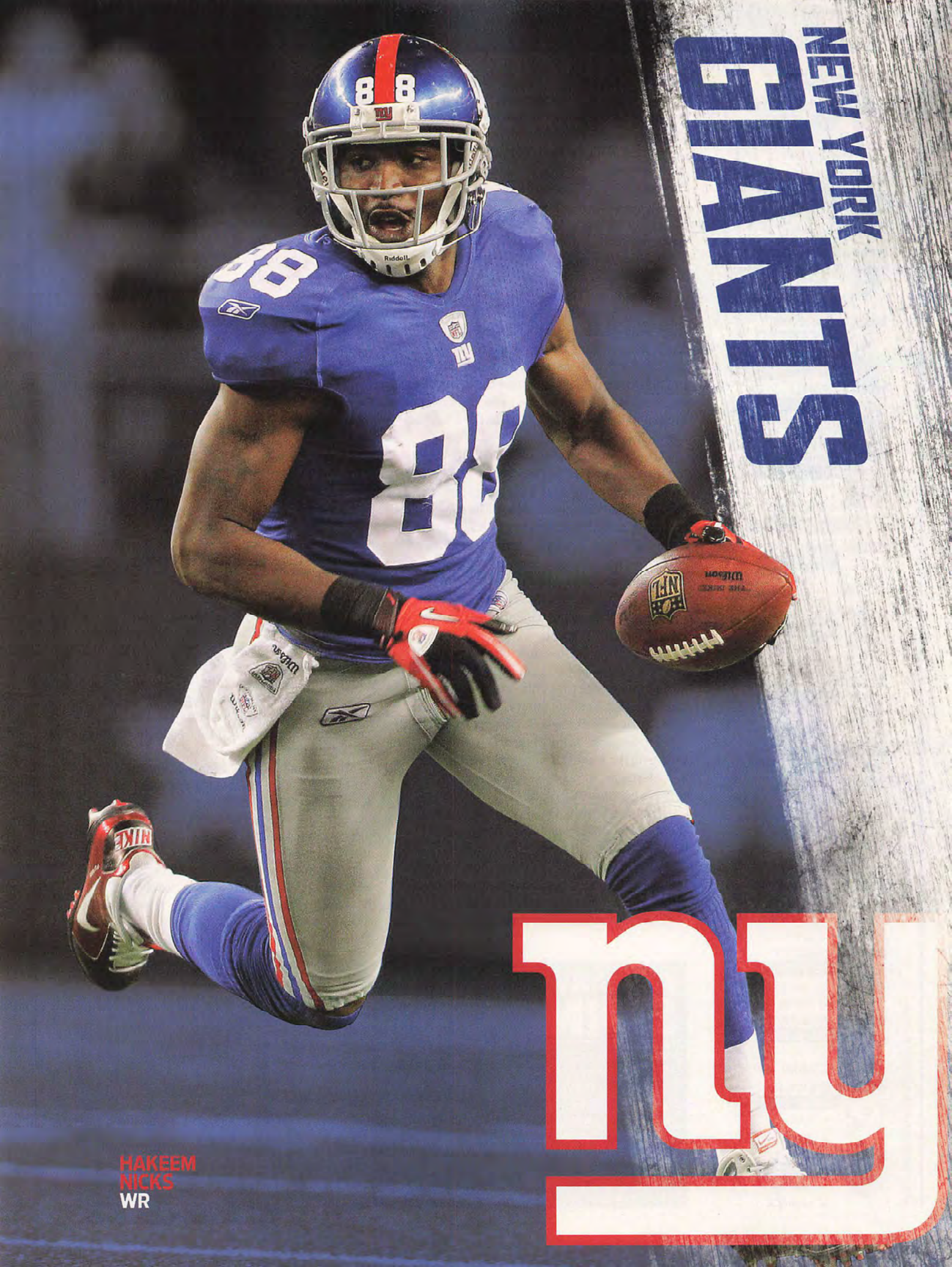
Tickets: 201-935-8222

- **TRAINING CAMP:** University at Albany, Albany, N.Y.; 518-442-7369

GIANTS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Emlen Tunnell *(1948-58)*	74	2	Jimmy Patton *(1955-66)*	52	3	Spider Lockhart *(1965-75)*	41

AL BELLO / GETTY IMAGES; TIM HEITMAN / US PRESSWIRE


NEW YORK
GIANTS
HAKEEM
NICKS
WR

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ WASHINGTON	SEPT. 11	4:15	W / L
WEEK 2	ST. LOUIS	SEPT. 19	8:30	W / L
WEEK 3	@ PHILADELPHIA	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	@ ARIZONA	OCT. 2	4:05	W / L
WEEK 5	SEATTLE	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	BUFFALO	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	OPEN			
WEEK 8	MIAMI	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	@ NEW ENGLAND	NOV. 6	4:15	W / L
WEEK 10	@ SAN FRANCISCO	NOV. 13	4:15	W / L
WEEK 11	PHILADELPHIA	NOV. 20	8:20	W / L
WEEK 12	@ NEW ORLEANS	NOV. 28	8:30	W / L
WEEK 13	GREEN BAY	DEC. 4	4:15	W / L
WEEK 14	@ DALLAS	DEC. 11	8:20	W / L
WEEK 15	WASHINGTON	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	@ N.Y. JETS	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	DALLAS	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

have been given more work. He doesn't overrun defenders as was often the case earlier in his career, but his uncommon size and strength continue to make him an effective runner.

Bradshaw, a free agent the Giants will work hard to re-sign once a new collective bargaining agreement is in place, is also solid catching passes out of the backfield (47 receptions in 2010), but Jacobs is not. After that duo, there isn't much else on the roster. D.J. Ware got just 20 rushing attempts in 2010 despite possessing solid physical ability. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ This position was hit hard last year with injuries that left Steve Smith (microfracture knee surgery) and Ramses Barden (broken ankle) on injured reserve. At full strength, Smith, Hakeem Nicks and Mario Manningham provide extreme quickness and create matchup problems, but the entire group needs to become more reliable, as tipped passes led to a load of interceptions last year.

Despite missing three games in 2010, Nicks led the team with 79 receptions for 1,052 yards and 11 touchdowns and is a big-play threat with excellent run-after-catch ability. The same holds true for Manningham (944 yards, 9 TDs), who is the most elusive of all the Giants' wideouts.

The towering Barden was just starting to make an impression when he went down with his injury. The Giants' attack needs his 6-6 presence on the field, though the third-year player remains a raw prospect.

Smith, who set a franchise record with 107 catches in 2009, played in only nine games in 2010, first missing time with a torn pectoral muscle and then going out for good with cartilage damage in his knee. Smith's return to health is essential, as he's one of the top possession targets in the league. If not, 2011 third-round pick Jerel Jernigan, a speedy slot receiver, will need to learn quickly. **GRADE: B**

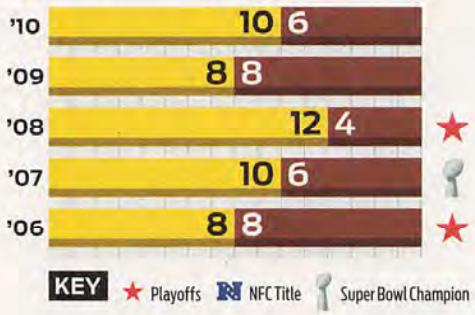
Offensive line ▸ Once renowned as a durable group, this unit took a beating last season. The center position was ravaged as Shaun O'Hara and Rich Seubert (converted from left guard) are both coming off severe injuries, along with backup center Adam Koets.

O'Hara is convinced he can return as good as new after playing in only six games in 2010 and coming off surgery on his left ankle and right foot. The fixtures on the line were on the right side, where guard Chris Snee and tackle Kareem McKenzie hold down the fort.

McKenzie, entering his 11th NFL season, helped rejuvenate his career with a strong showing last season. Versatile David Diehl played left tackle and guard in 2010.

The Giants are intrigued with Shawn Andrews, who might be their left tackle this season if he can prove his surgically repaired

5-YEAR RECORD: 48-32



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Giants)

"I think they're pretty good but they certainly have to improve in certain areas. The offense is good if they can cut down the turnovers. The defense is solid—not spectacular yet—but they have some guys that might turn out to be playmakers. So I don't think they're that far away from being an excellent team. With a good draft and a couple of good free-agent signings they'll be right there in the thick of it. I don't think this is a team that's going down. ...

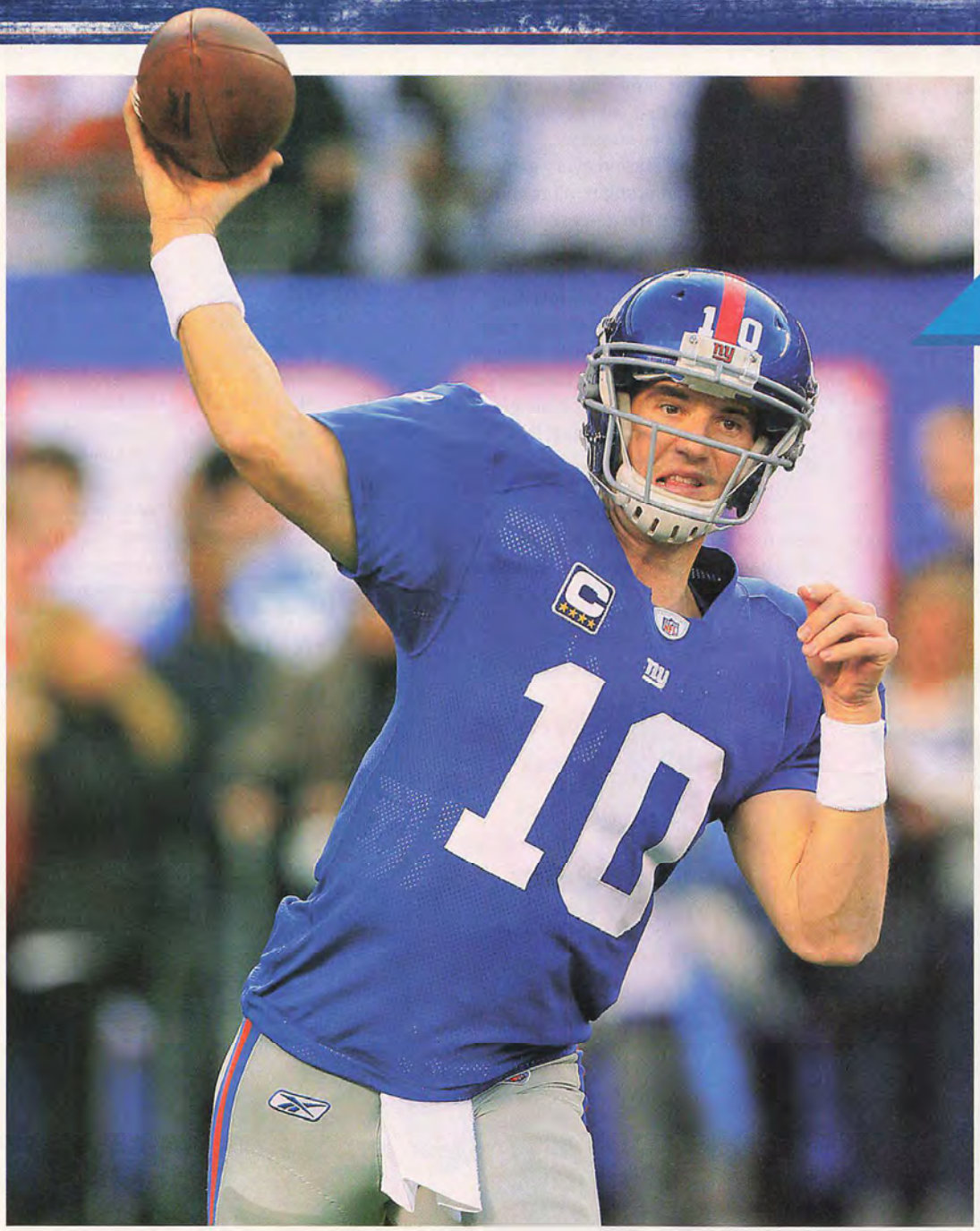
"They've got to add a couple of pieces to the defense to be top-notch. They've got to fix that linebacker thing. (Clint) Sintim, (Jonathan) Goff and (Michael) Boley are not exciting. Goff did OK but I don't know if he's anything more than an OK middle linebacker. Sintim is not going to be the answer.

"I think they need to add another corner and the whole thing about (Barry) Cofield is a big question. If he's back they're OK but if not they've got to get another tackle in there."

FANTASY SPIN

Eli Manning is one of five quarterbacks who has thrown for 4,000-plus yards in each of the past two seasons. Don't overlook him on draft day.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

THE BOOK ON ...

ELI MANNING

"I really think Eli's not going to have the turnover-prone year that he had last year. I don't think he's going down; I think he's still trending upwards. My opinion is it falls on (offensive coordinator Kevin) Gilbride. I really think his offense, with the players they have, needs to be—I hate to say this—dumbed down. It's too complicated, especially with receivers and the number of young guys they have there. They're required to do a lot more than most teams as far as options on routes. ...

"They've got a very, very complicated passing offense and, couple that with the turnovers, and it was kind of a little bit of a disaster there. The turnovers really killed them. The receivers not really being where they should be a lot of times caused a lot of turnovers. ...

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	380.3	5
Rushing	137.5	6
Passing	242.8	10
Scoring	394	7t
Punt Returns	6.1	31t
Kick Returns	19.0	31
Red Zone TD %	57.4	11
Total Defense	310.8	7
Against Rush	101.2	8
Against Pass	209.5	9
Points Allowed	347	17
Interceptions	16	14t
Sacks	46	5
Turnover Diff.	-3	18

back can hold up. It didn't in his first year with the team. If not, Will Beatty, entering his third year, is an option at left tackle if Diehl is needed inside at left guard, as Seubert is recovering from a dislocated kneecap. **GRADE: B-**

DEFENSE

The Giants go with the approach that you can never have enough pass rushers, and everything they do in their 4-3 defense is predicated on putting heat on the opposing passer.

Coordinator Perry Fewell arrived in 2010 and tried to get as much pressure as possible using only four rushers but he also leaned heavily on a three-safety alignment, mainly because the quality of player at safety was much higher than at linebacker. Fewell will mix in zone and corner blitzes but prefers not to extend the back end too much in straight one-on-one coverage.

Defensive line ▶ Few teams can match the plethora of pass rushers the Giants trot out each week. Starters Justin Tuck (11.5 sacks in 2010) and Osi Umenyiora (11.5) are bookends capable of busting through double-teams to invade the pocket.

Jason Pierre-Paul, a 2010 first-round pick, came in as raw as uncooked carrots but his immense wingspan and natural physical ability was on display as he registered 4.5 sacks and worked hard to improve his technique. The loss of Mathias Kiwanuka (4 sacks) after only three games to a herniated cervical disk was costly due to his versatility. Kiwanuka, a restricted free agent who can also line up

be considered a question mark until he proves his neck is sound.

The interior of the line is not nearly as loaded. Sturdy Barry Cofield had his best season in 2010 but might not be re-signed. His replacement could be Marvin Austin, a 2011 second-round pick who brings talent and a nasty disposition. After an injury-filled debut season with the Giants in 2009, Chris Canty came back to start all 16 games last year but is disruptive only in spurts. There are high hopes for 2010 second-round pick Linval Joseph, who spent his rookie year mostly watching from the sidelines. **GRADE: A**

Linebackers ▶ This remains the weakest position on the defense. The stopgap attempt to fill a starting spot by taking a chance on former Titan Keith Bulluck did not pay dividends, as he started just eight games and wasn't much of a factor in his first year coming off reconstructive knee surgery.

Jonathan Goff started every game in the middle and is smart, alert and capable of getting the defense lined up.

Michael Boley was signed two years ago from the Falcons to provide excellent coverage against tight ends, but that hasn't always been the case. Clint Sintim, a 2009 second-round pick, was supposed to be starting on the strong side at this point but hasn't done enough to convince the coaching staff that a promotion is deserved.

There's some hope for Phillip Dillard after a developmental rookie year and also for Greg Jones, a sixth-round pick who had great production at Michigan State. **GRADE: D**

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	31-18	Carolina Panthers
09/19	L	14-38	Indianapolis Colts
09/26	L	10-29	Tennessee Titans
10/03	W	17-3	Chicago Bears
10/10	W	34-10	Houston Texans
10/17	W	28-20	Detroit Lions
10/25	W	41-35	Dallas Cowboys
11/07	W	41-7	Seattle Seahawks
11/14	L	20-33	Dallas Cowboys
11/21	L	17-27	Philadelphia Eagles
11/28	W	24-20	Jacksonville Jaguars
12/05	W	31-7	Washington Redskins
12/13	W	21-3	Minnesota Vikings
12/19	L	31-38	Philadelphia Eagles
12/26	L	17-45	Green Bay Packers
01/02	W	17-14	Washington Redskins

WON 10, LOST 6

DRAFT REPORT

The Giants allowed the draft to come to them and ended up with a strong class. **Prince Amukamara, Marvin Austin, Jerrel Jernigan, James Brewer** and **Greg Jones** could all be immediate starters for the Giants in 2011. Taking a top-rated cornerback in Amukamara is always a smart move, especially with the passing trend of the NFL today.

Austin would have been a top-20 pick had he not run into off-field trouble in college. Jernigan may start as the slot wide receiver if they employ a three-wideout formation this fall. Brewer has a strong chance to emerge from the preseason as the starter at right tackle on offense. **Tyler Sash** will provide a strong backup role at safety as a rookie, while linebacker **Jacquian Williams** and running back **Da'Rel Scott** will have to shine on special teams in order to make the 2011 Giants squad.

Amukamara

GRADE A- (A | B | C | D | F)

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	19	Prince Amukamara	CB	6-0	206	Nebraska
2	20	Marvin Austin	DT	6-2	309	North Carolina
3	19	Jerrel Jernigan	WR	5-9	189	Troy
4	20	James Brewer	OT	6-6	307	Indiana
6	20	Greg Jones	ILB	6-0	242	Michigan State
6	33	Tyler Sash	SS	6-1	210	Iowa
6	37	Jacquian Williams	OLB	6-3	216	South Florida
7	18	Da'Rel Scott	RB	5-11	211	Maryland

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bradshaw	276	1235	4.5	48	8
Jacobs	147	823	5.6	73	9
Ware	20	73	3.7	14	0
Manning	32	70	2.2	16	0
Manningham	1	2	2.0	2	0
Dodge	1	0	0.0	0	0
Rosenfels	3	-3	-1.0	0	0
NY GIANTS	**480**	**2200**	**4.6**	**73**	**17**
OPPONENTS	**389**	**1620**	**4.2**	**50**	**11**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Nicks	79	1052	13.3	46	11
Manningham	60	944	15.7	92	9
Smith	48	529	11.0	45	3
Bradshaw	47	314	6.7	18	0
Boss	35	531	15.2	54	5
Hagan	24	223	9.3	17	1
Beckum	13	116	8.9	29	2
Pascoe	9	72	8.0	12	0
Jacobs	7	59	8.4	22	0
Ware	7	67	9.6	18	0
Barden	5	64	12.8	26	0
Clayton	2	19	9.5	14	0
Hedgecock	2	8	4.0	7	0
Calhoun	1	4	4.0	4	0
NY GIANTS	**339**	**4002**	**11.8**	**92**	**31**
OPPONENTS	**308**	**3370**	**10.9**	**87**	**24**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Manning	539	339	4002	31	25
NY GIANTS	**539**	**339**	**4002**	**31**	**25**
OPPONENTS	**539**	**308**	**3686**	**24**	**16**

SACKS NY GIANTS 45, OPPONENTS 16

Tuck 11.5, Umenyiora 11.5, Pierre-Paul 4.5, Cofield 4, Kiwanuka 4, Bernard 2, Canty 1.5, Boley 1, Goff 1, Ross 1, Thomas 1, Rolle 0.5, Tollefson 0.5

CHRIS SZAGOLA / CAL SPORT MEDIA

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Manning, Eli	QB	6-4	225	1/3/81	8	Ole Miss
Perrilloux, Ryan	QB	6-3	223	1/1/87	0	Jacksonville State
18 Rosenfels, Sage	QB	6-4	225	3/6/78	11	Iowa State
19 Sorgi, Jim	QB	6-5	196	12/3/80	8	Wisconsin

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
73 Andrews, Shawn	T	6-4	330	12/25/82	8	Arkansas
65 Beatty, Will	T	6-6	307	3/2/85	3	Connecticut
77 Boothe, Kevin	G	6-5	315	7/5/83	6	Cornell
Brewer, James	T	6-6	323	12/23/87	0	Indiana
63 Cordle, Jim	C	6-4	297	8/22/87	1	Ohio State
51 DeOssie, Zak	LS	6-4	249	5/24/84	5	Brown
66 Diehl, David	T	6-5	319	9/15/80	9	Illinois
61 Knets, Adam	T	6-5	300	1/1/84	5	Oregon State
67 McKenzie, Kareem	T	6-6	327	5/24/79	11	Penn State
79 Meredith, Jamon	T	6-5	304	5/11/86	3	South Carolina
Ndukwe, Ike	G	6-4	325	7/17/82	3	Northwestern
60 O'Hara, Shaun	C	6-3	303	6/23/77	12	Rutgers
62 Petrus, Mitch	G	6-3	310	5/11/87	2	Arkansas
69 Seubert, Rich	T	6-3	310	3/30/79	11	Western Illinois
76 Snee, Chris	G	6-3	317	1/18/82	8	Boston College

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Bradshaw, Ahmad	RB	5-9	198	3/19/86	5	Marshall
39 Hedgecock, Madison	RB	6-3	266	8/27/81	7	North Carolina
27 Jacobs, Brandon	RB	6-4	264	7/6/82	7	Southern Illinois
Mallett, Martell	RB	6-0	210	5/13/86	1	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Scott, Charles	RB	6-0	238	8/8/88	1	LSU
Scott, Da'Rel	RB	5-11	211	5/26/88	0	Maryland
28 Ware, Danny	RB	6-0	234	2/18/85	5	Georgia

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
48 Ballard, Jake	TE	6-6	256	12/2/87	1	Ohio State
13 Barden, Ramses	WR	6-6	227	1/1/86	3	Cal Poly
47 Beckum, Travis	TE	6-3	239	1/24/87	3	Wisconsin
89 Boss, Kevin	TE	6-6	253	1/11/84	5	Western Oregon
84 Calhoun, Duke	WR	6-4	205	9/1/87	2	Memphis
83 Clayton, Michael	WR	6-4	215	10/13/82	8	LSU
80 Cruz, Victor	WR	6-1	200	11/11/86	2	Massachusetts
Giguere, Samuel	WR	5-11	215	7/11/85	1	Sherbrooke (Canada)
85 Hagan, Derek	WR	6-2	215	9/21/84	5	Arizona State
87 Hixon, Domenik	WR	6-2	182	10/8/84	6	Akron
Jernigan, Jerrel	WR	5-9	185	6/14/89	0	Troy
82 Manningham, Mario	WR	5-11	183	5/25/86	4	Michigan
88 Nicks, Hakeem	WR	6-0	215	1/14/88	3	North Carolina
86 Pascoe, Bear	TE	6-5	251	2/23/86	3	Fresno State
15 Reynaud, Darius	WR	5-9	201	12/29/84	4	West Virginia
12 Smith, Steve	WR	5-11	195	5/6/85	5	USC
81 Thomas, Devin	WR	6-2	218	11/15/86	4	Michigan State
Watkins, Todd	WR	6-3	195	6/22/83	2	BYU

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Austin, Marvin	DT	6-2	309	1/10/89	0	North Carolina
95 Bernard, Rocky	DT	6-3	308	4/19/79	10	Texas A&M
99 Canty, Chris	DE	6-7	304	11/10/82	7	Virginia
96 Cofield, Barry	DT	6-4	306	3/19/84	6	Northwestern
93 Hall, Alex	DE	6-5	250	8/17/85	4	St. Augustine's
Hendricks, Dwayne	DT	6-4	300	3/17/86	1	Miami (Fla.)
97 Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	328	10/10/88	2	East Carolina
94 Kiwanuka, Mathias	DE	6-5	265	3/8/83	6	Boston College
Okpokowuruk, Ayanga	DE	6-3	250	6/19/87	1	Duke
90 Pierre-Paul, Jason	DE	6-5	270	2/28/89	2	South Florida
71 Tollefson, Dave	DE	6-4	255	7/10/82	5	Northwest Missouri State
98 Tracy, Adrian	DE	6-2	248	4/6/87	2	William & Mary
91 Tuck, Justin	DE	6-5	274	3/29/83	7	Notre Dame
72 Umenyiora, Osi	DE	6-3	261	11/16/81	9	Troy

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Amukamara, Prince	CB	6-0	206	6/6/89	0	Nebraska
37 Brown, Courtney	S	6-1	204	2/10/84	4	Cal Poly
Burnett, Joe	CB	5-10	192	11/28/86	2	UCF
37 Coe, Michael	CB	6-0	190	12/17/83	4	Alabama State
34 Grant, Deon	S	6-2	215	3/14/79	12	Tennessee
Harris, Cary	CB	5-11	187	3/22/87	2	USC
37 Jackson, Brian	CB	6-0	198	5/4/87	2	Oklahoma
25 Johnson, Bruce	CB	5-11	182	12/18/87	3	Miami (Fla.)
20 Johnson, Michael	S	6-2	207	5/9/84	5	Arizona
35 Jones, Chad	S	6-2	221	10/5/88	1	LSU
21 Phillips, Kenny	S	6-2	210	11/24/86	4	Miami (Fla.)
26 Rolle, Antrel	S	6-0	208	12/16/82	6	Miami (Fla.)
31 Ross, Aaron	CB	6-0	197	9/15/82	5	Texas
Sash, Tyler	S	6-1	210	5/27/88	0	Iowa
24 Thomas, Terrell	CB	6-0	199	1/8/85	4	USC
Turenne, Woodny	CB	6-0	184	1/25/87	1	Louisville
23 Webster, Corey	CB	6-0	202	3/2/82	7	LSU
29 Witherspoon, Brian	CB	5-10	180	6/5/85	3	Stillman

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57 Blackburn, Chase	LB	6-3	247	6/10/83	7	Akron
59 Boley, Michael	LB	6-3	223	8/24/82	7	Southern Miss
53 Bulluck, Keith	LB	6-3	235	4/4/77	12	Syracuse
49 Dillard, Phillip	LB	6-0	245	12/10/86	2	Nebraska
54 Goff, Jonathan	LB	6-2	236	12/12/85	4	Vanderbilt
Ingram, Kenny	LB	6-5	239	2/27/86	1	Florida State
Jones, Greg	LB	6-0	242	10/5/88	0	Michigan State
52 Sintim, Clint	LB	6-2	256	2/21/86	3	Virginia
58 Wilkinson, Gerris	LB	6-3	231	4/5/83	6	Georgia Tech
Williams, Jacquian	LB	6-3	216	11/30/89	0	South Florida

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
6 Dodge, Matt	P	6-1	224	5/30/87	2	East Carolina
9 Tynes, Lawrence	K	6-1	202	6/3/78	8	Troy

TOM COUGHLIN, Head coach

Kevin Gilbride, offensive coordinator; **Perry Fewell,** defensive coordinator; **Tom Quinn,** special teams coordinator; **Jack Bicknell Jr.,** asst. offensive line; **Pat Flaherty,** offensive line; **Jerald Ingram,** running backs; **Mike Pope,** tight ends; **Sean Ryan,** wide receivers; **Mike Sullivan,** quarterbacks; **Peter Giunta,** secondary/cornerbacks; **David Merritt,** secondary/safeties; **Jim Hermann,** linebackers; **Robert Nunn,** defensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

TOM COUGHLIN

Coughlin is a disciplinarian who has adapted with the times and allowed his players more of a say in some team operations. He has lightened up inside the locker room but remains a no-nonsense coach. He has a huge say in the offensive approach and game plan but allows his offensive coordinator to call the plays. Coughlin is more likely to put the ball away and play defense than go for it on fourth down and is not a big believer in gadget plays or surprise onside kicks.

State. **GRADE: D**

Secondary

For much of last season the Giants used three safeties on the field at one time, with Antrel Rolle and Kenny Phillips in traditional roles and Deon Grant lined up as a linebacker. In his first year with the team, Rolle was used differently than expected. He was mostly in the box as a strong safety and actually more effective as a run stopper than he was dropping deep in coverage.

Phillips, returning from major knee surgery, held up but did not display the sideline-to-sideline coverage or playmaking ability that he did as a rookie. The rising star in the backfield is Terrell Thomas, who led the team with five interceptions, one more than Corey Webster.

Aaron Ross was able to shake off physical ailments that plagued him in 2009 to stay on the field but did not make much of an impact at nickel back. Ross will be challenged by 2011 first-round pick Prince Amukamara, who should be ready to contribute quickly. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The return game didn't offer much in 2010, with Domenik Hixon missing the entire season following knee surgery and no legitimate replacement found. Hixon is expected to be healthy this season, and Jernigan will also be in the mix.

There was an unending series of misadventures for rookie punter Matt Dodge, who showed an extremely strong leg and an extremely erratic performance level. At least Lawrence Tynes wasn't a problem. He improved the distance on his kickoffs but wasn't very busy through the uprights, making 19 of only 23 field goal attempts. **GRADE: D**

BOTTOM LINE

There are enough quality athletes and players at marquee positions for the Giants to contend once again for the playoffs. If they clean up the turnover sloppiness, their offense should have little problem moving up and down the field and finding the end zone. The defense can get to the passer up front but must find a linebacker to make plays.

The Giants have stability at quarterback, which is always a plus, but Manning's offensive line—for so long a strength—is banged up and in need of some repair. Better overall depth is also needed, as the Giants have shown an alarming tendency to wear down late in the season, leading to swoons that are often costly.

91
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

DALLAS
COWBOYS
MILES
AUSTIN
WR

With Garrett now at the reins, can Cowboys' stars shine bright?

By Jean Jacques-Taylor *Dallas Morning News*

Now, it's Jason Garrett's turn to see if he can help Jerry Jones win another Super Bowl ring.

The last four coaches Jones has hired—Chan Gailey, Dave Campo, Bill Parcells and Wade Phillips—have failed.

Garrett has a chance to be different because he understands what makes Jones tick. After all, he played for the Cowboys seven seasons as a backup quarterback and has known Jones for nearly 20 years.

As interim coach last year, Garrett led Dallas to a 5-3 record and had the Cowboys playing like the team most folks thought had an opportunity to play in Super Bowl 45 instead of the one that started 1-7.

Garrett has changed the culture, paying more attention to details and holding players accountable. The players respect the discipline and they responded late in the season.

None of this guarantees wins, but it puts Garrett in position to maximize the Cowboys' potential. No matter how you slice it, the bottom line is Dallas has won just one playoff game since 1996.

OFFENSE

Garrett, who will still call the plays, likes to use formations with two tight ends because they give balance to the running game as well as three-receiver sets in part because they're easier to run against nickel personnel.

John Garrett, Jason's brother, has been named passing-game coordinator while line coach Hudson Houck is the running-game coordinator. Jason wants the Cowboys to be a physical, downhill running team but the best players on this team are the quarterback, receivers and tight ends, which is why Dallas throws the ball so much.

Quarterbacks ▸ It's time for Tony Romo to win in the postseason.

Cowboys fans have seen him pile up gaudy regular-season stats (118 touchdowns, 62 interceptions and a 95.5 passer rating) in 61 career starts, but he has just one playoff victory in five years as a starter.

The 31-year-old Romo has two years left on his contract and needs to have some postseason success, or Jones will have some serious questions when the time comes for a new deal.

No one has ever questioned Romo's immense talent, and a fractured collarbone ended his season after just five games in 2010. At the time, though, the Cowboys were 1-4, struggling on offense and he had thrown seven interceptions.

The question about Romo has always been whether he could harness his natural instinct to gamble and make something out of nothing. When he limits the turnovers, Romo is among the best quarterbacks in the league. When he doesn't, he drives his

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

LB SEAN LEE

A 2010 second-round pick, Lee showed toward the end of the season why Dallas had a first-round grade on him. He's an instinctive player who can be a force against the run. If he avoids the leg injuries that plagued his rookie season, he'll be one of the Cowboys' better defensive players in 2011.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 2-6

- **ONLINE:** www.dallascowboys.com
- **STADIUM:** Cowboys Stadium

Capacity: 80,000 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 817-892-5000

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Alamodome, San Antonio; 972-556-9959

COWBOYS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Mel Renfro** *(1964-77)*	52	2	**Everson Walls** *(1981-89)*	44	3	**Charlie Waters** *(1970-81)*	41

NFC EAST

SN PICK **7-9**

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Tony Romo Jon Kitna
FB	Chris Gronkowski
RB	Felix Jones DeMarco Murray
LT	Doug Free Sam Young
LG	Kyle Kosier Montrae Holland
C	Andre Gurode Phil Costa
RG	Leonard Davis Travis Bright
RT	Tyron Smith Marc Colombo
TE	Jason Witten Martellus Bennett
WR	Miles Austin Kevin Ogletree
WR	Dez Bryant Roy Williams
DEFENSE	
DE	Stephen Bowen Jason Hatcher
NT	Jay Ratliff Josh Brent
DE	Igor Olshansky Jason Hatcher
OLB	DeMarcus Ware Victor Butler
ILB	Bradie James Keith Brooking
ILB	Sean Lee Keith Brooking
OLB	Anthony Spencer Brandon Williams
LCB	Terence Newman Bryan McCann
SS	Alan Ball Barry Church
FS	Gerald Sensabaugh Barry Church
RCB	Mike Jenkins Orlando Scandrick
SPECIALISTS	
K	David Buehler
P	Mat McBriar
KR	Bryan McCann
PR	Dez Bryant
LS	L.P. Ladouceur

MATTHEW EMMONS / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: TIM HEITMAN / US PRESSWIRE

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ N.Y. JETS	SEPT. 11	8:20	W / L
WEEK 2	@ SAN FRANCISCO	SEPT. 18	4:05	W / L
WEEK 3	WASHINGTON	SEPT. 26	8:30	W / L
WEEK 4	DETROIT	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	OPEN			
WEEK 6	@ NEW ENGLAND	OCT. 16	4:15	W / L
WEEK 7	ST. LOUIS	OCT. 23	4:15	W / L
WEEK 8	@ PHILADELPHIA	OCT. 30	8:20	W / L
WEEK 9	SEATTLE	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	BUFFALO	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ WASHINGTON	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	MIAMI	NOV. 24	4:15	W / L
WEEK 13	@ ARIZONA	DEC. 4	4:15	W / L
WEEK 14	N.Y. GIANTS	DEC. 11	8:20	W / L
WEEK 15	@ TAMPA BAY	DEC. 17	8:20	W / L
WEEK 16	PHILADELPHIA	DEC. 24	4:15	W / L
WEEK 17	@ N.Y. GIANTS	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

teammates and coaching staff crazy.

Jon Kitna played far better than anyone could have envisioned last season, but he's 38. Stephen McGee started the final game last year and showed he has plenty of intangibles. However, he doesn't look anything like Romo's heir apparent. **GRADE: B**

Running backs ▸ Felix Jones is entering his fourth season, and the Cowboys still have no idea whether he's a featured back or role player.

For a former first-round pick, that's hardly a positive. And that's why the Cowboys drafted Oklahoma running back DeMarco Murray in the third round. He's going to get every opportunity to supplant Jones and earn the starting job.

As a rookie, Jones showed signs of being spectacular before an injury ended his season. In 2009, he averaged 5.9 yards per carry and after a couple of huge games (including a playoff win over Philadelphia), he seemed poised to become the man in Big D. To prep for the role, he gained about 10 pounds, but much of the wiggle and acceleration that seemed to make him special was missing.

Tashard Choice is a quality change-of-pace runner, but not the kind of back you build an offense around. Marion Barber, who used his body as a sledgehammer to gain yardage, is a shell of his former self, and it would surprise no one if he's not with the team when the season begins. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ If the Cowboys can keep Miles Austin and Dez Bryant healthy for an entire season, they should have one of the NFL's most dynamic receiving combinations.

Austin's production fell off dramatically, but a lot of that had to do with Romo's injury and Bryant's emergence. Bryant has dazzling talent and, until a broken ankle sidelined him for the last four games of the season, he was turning in at least one highlight-worthy play each game.

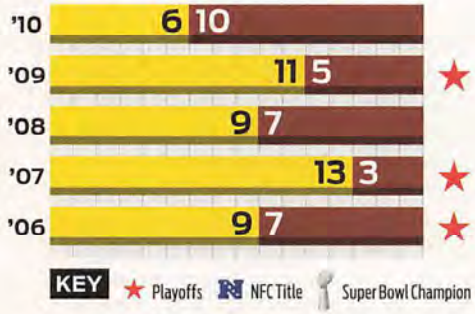
Roy Williams played much better in his third season in Dallas, but is never going to be worth $9 million per season in his current role. Kevin Ogletree had an opportunity to move up the depth chart last year in training camp, but couldn't find a rhythm.

Aside from Austin and Bryant, there's not a receiver on the roster who should feel completely secure with his spot on the team. Rookie Dwayne Harris, a sixth-round pick, could move into the slot-receiver position. Look for Jason Witten to continue his solid play at tight end and be a safety valve for Romo, while Witten's backup, Martellus Bennett, could start for some teams. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸ Doug Free proved he's ready to be mentioned among the top left tackles in the league after his first full season at one of football's toughest positions. Now, the Cowboys must figure out if the other four starters on their offensive line can meet Free's level of play.

Left guard Kyle Kosier is a free agent, and

5-YEAR RECORD: 48-32



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Cowboys)

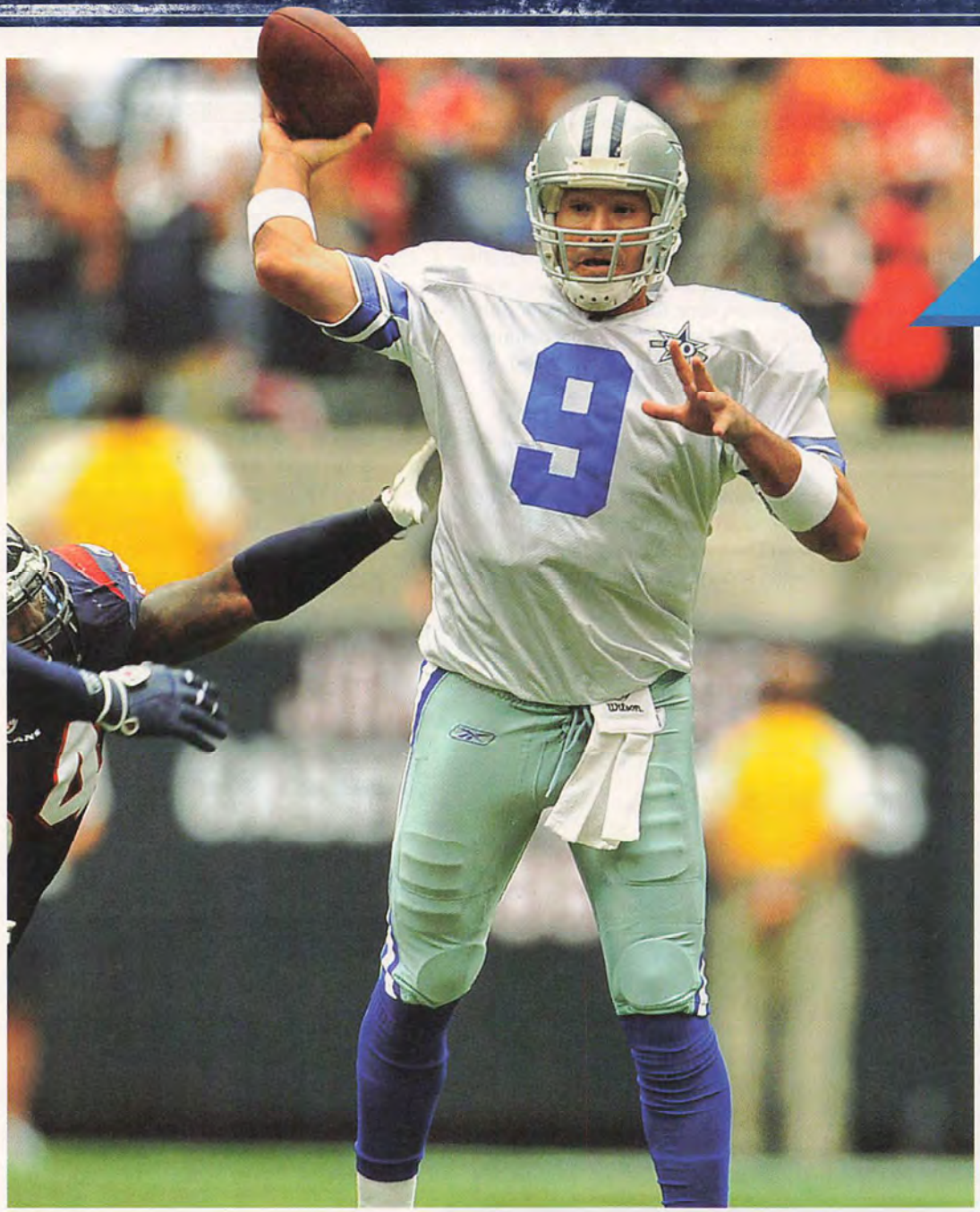
"I don't care what their record was, the Cowboys had the talent to win the NFC East and go deep in the playoffs. But they started slow under (former coach) Wade (Phillips) and the season just kind of snowballed on them. (New coach) Jason Garrett will be good for them because he's a smart guy and he'll make everyone accountable, which I don't know that Wade always did. The Cowboys have Tony Romo, Jason Witten, Miles Austin and Dez Bryant on offense. They have DeMarcus Ware, Mike Jenkins, Terence Newman and Anthony Spencer on defense. That's enough really good players to win more than six games. ...

"Jason Garrett will give them direction and focus. He's real particular about details and he'll make sure they take care of the little things. Look how well they played once he took over (5-3). If they start fast this season, then they're going to be tough."

FANTASY SPIN

Tony Romo was limited to just six games last year because of a collarbone injury, but he was on pace for the second-best season of his career.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



PATRICK GREEN / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

TONY ROMO

"Although he gets a lot of criticism around the league, he's a guy I wouldn't mind having as my quarterback. He can make every throw you want to make and he's competitive. That's why he makes mistakes and throws interceptions. He can be too competitive, but I'd rather have that than a guy who's afraid to make mistakes. ...

"Romo is athletic and can make plays out of the pocket, which is important because teams blitz so much. There's almost always a linebacker or safety running free. The quarterback has to account for that guy. The knock on him is that he'll throw the critical interception, which he has done. But every quarterback makes mistakes when you hit them enough or pressure them enough. He's capable of being one of the best quarterbacks in the league, but it won't happen until he cuts down on the mistakes at critical times."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	364.2	7
Rushing	111.6	16
Passing	252.6	6
Scoring	394	7t
Punt Returns	15.9	2
Kick Returns	21.2	23
Red Zone TD %	59.6	8t
Total Defense	351.8	23
Against Rush	108.4	12
Against Pass	243.4	26
Points Allowed	436	31
Interceptions	20	7
Sacks	35	16
Turnover Diff.	0	13t

age and injuries have robbed right tackle Marc Colombo of the ability to play as well as he did two seasons ago, which is why the Cowboys are expected to release him after a new collective bargaining agreement is signed.

Center Andre Gurode is nearing the end of his career, while Leonard Davis had a disappointing campaign in 2010.

The Cowboys took Tyron Smith with the ninth pick overall, and he's expected to start at right tackle. Smith is athletic and excels at getting to the perimeter and making blocks against linebackers on the second level.

Sam Young, a sixth-round pick last year, gets good reviews from the coaching staff but isn't ready to start. Montrae Holland, a key backup at both guard spots, is another massive guy who doesn't move well in space, though he's solid at the point of attack. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

Rob Ryan is the new coordinator and has promised to attack from the first play to the last. He'll bring exotic blitzes and mix up the coverages behind them to confuse the quarterback. His strength is identifying weaknesses in blocking schemes and attacking them.

Defensive line ▸ Jay Ratliff is considered among the best nose tackles in the NFL but didn't record a single tackle for loss last season. He must do better this year. While he lacks the size and bulk of a traditional 3-4 nose tackle, Ratliff has thrived because of quickness, agility

and a motor that never stops. Still, Ryan must figure out how to get more production from Ratliff because teams had too much success running at him last season.

Igor Olshansky was a nonfactor at right end in 2010. He was average against the run and provided little pass rush. Former first-round pick Marcus Spears didn't receive a contract tender and will leave via free agency, which means either Stephen Bowen or Jason Hatcher will take his place this season.

Josh Brent did a nice job as a rookie last season, and the Cowboys would love to increase his role so Ratliff doesn't have to play as much. **GRADE: B-**

Linebackers ▸ The Cowboys are still looking for an impact linebacker to play opposite DeMarcus Ware, who led the NFL with 15.5 sacks last season. A year after Anthony Spencer seemed poised for a breakout campaign, he regressed. Dallas figured with as many double-teams as Ware receives that Spencer would have 10 sacks in 2010, but that number ended up being cut in half.

Brandon Williams and Victor Butler are entering their third seasons, which means it's time for more production. Butler has five career sacks in limited opportunities. He might be worth a longer look this season.

Bradie James, the leader of the Cowboys' defense, continues to be a productive player. He's good against the run and plays through the whistle every snap. Leg injuries slowed down Sean Lee's rookie campaign, but he began showing flashes at the end of the

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	7-13	Washington Redskins
09/19	L	20-27	Chicago Bears
09/26	W	27-13	Houston Texans
10/10	L	27-34	Tennessee Titans
10/17	L	21-24	Minnesota Vikings
10/25	L	35-41	New York Giants
10/31	L	17-35	Jacksonville Jaguars
11/07	L	7-45	Green Bay Packers
11/14	W	33-20	New York Giants
11/21	W	35-19	Detroit Lions
11/25	L	27-30	New Orleans Saints
12/05	W	38-35	Indianapolis Colts
12/12	L	27-30	Philadelphia Eagles
12/19	W	33-30	Washington Redskins
12/25	L	26-27	Arizona Cardinals
01/02	W	14-13	Philadelphia Eagles

WON 6, LOST 10

DRAFT REPORT

The Cowboys filled an immediate need at right tackle with their first-round selection of **Tyron Smith**, but made several curious picks in the rest of the draft. Linebacker **Bruce Carter** is a top prospect who likely would have been a solid first-round pick had he not blown out his knee in December. Even if he were healthy, Carter is not a great fit in Dallas' 3-4 defensive scheme.

The Cowboys hope to bolster an uncertain and disappointing running game with third-round pick **DeMarco Murray**. The pickup of Murray could signal the end for Marion Barber. In the fourth round, the Cowboys found a raw, but talented small-school offensive lineman in **David Arkin** from Missouri State.

Cornerback **Josh Thomas** and wide receiver **Dwayne Harris** should serve as backups and special teams players in 2011.

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	9	Tyron Smith	OT	6-5	307	USC
2	8	Bruce Carter	OLB	6-1	241	North Carolina
3	7	DeMarco Murray	RB	6-0	213	Oklahoma
4	13	David Arkin	G	6-4	300	Missouri State
5	12	Josh Thomas	CB	5-10	196	Buffalo
6	11	Dwayne Harris	WR	5-10	203	East Carolina
7	17	Shaun Chapas	FB	6-2	247	Georgia
7	49	Bill Nagy	G	6-3	318	Wisconsin

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones	185	800	4.3	34	1
Barber	113	374	3.3	25	4
Choice	66	243	3.7	26	3
Kitna	31	147	4.7	29	1
Austin	7	93	13.3	60	1
McGee	13	74	5.7	14	0
Romo	6	38	6.3	14	0
Gronkowski	5	17	3.4	8	0
Bryant	1	0	0.0	0	0
McBriar	1	0	0.0	0	0
DALLAS	**428**	**1786**	**4.2**	**60**	**10**
OPPONENTS	**402**	**1734**	**4.3**	**56**	**11**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Witten	94	1002	10.7	33	9
Austin	69	1041	15.1	69	7
Jones	48	450	9.4	71	1
Bryant	45	561	12.5	46	6
Williams	37	530	14.3	63	5
Bennett	33	260	7.9	32	0
Choice	17	109	6.4	17	0
Hurd	14	120	8.6	13	0
Barber	11	49	4.5	15	0
Gronkowski	7	35	5.0	12	1
Ogletree	3	34	11.3	19	0
Johnson	1	6	6.0	6	0
DALLAS	**379**	**4208**	**11.1**	**71**	**39**
OPPONENTS	**348**	**3894**	**11.2**	**91**	**33**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kitna	318	209	2365	16	12
Romo	213	148	1605	11	7
McGee	44	22	238	2	0
Barber	1	0	0	0	0
DALLAS	**576**	**379**	**4208**	**39**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**540**	**348**	**4151**	**33**	**20**

SACKS DALLAS 35, OPPONENTS 31

Ware 15.5, Spencer 5, Ratliff 3.5, Scandrick 2.5, Butler 2, Sensabaugh 2, Bowen 1.5, Brooking 1, Hatcher 1, Ball 0.5, Lissemore 0.5

CHRIS TROTMAN / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
14 Greisen, Chris	QB	6-3	219	7/2/76	4	Northwest Missouri State
3 Kitna, Jon	QB	6-2	230	9/21/72	15	Central Washington
7 McGee, Stephen	QB	6-3	222	9/27/85	3	Texas A&M
9 Romo, Tony	QB	6-2	223	4/21/80	9	Eastern Illinois

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Arkin, David	G	6-4	300	10/7/87	0	Missouri State
71 Barron, Alex	T	6-8	316	9/28/82	7	Florida State
79 Brewster, Robert	T	6-4	320	7/30/86	2	Ball State
60 Bright, Travis	G	6-4	321	1/5/83	1	BYU
75 Colombo, Marc	T	6-8	320	10/8/78	10	Boston College
67 Costa, Phil	G	6-3	316	7/11/87	2	Maryland
70 Davis, Leonard	G	6-6	355	9/5/78	11	Texas
68 Free, Doug	T	6-6	320	1/6/84	5	Northern Illinois
65 Gurode, Andre	C	6-4	318	3/6/79	10	Colorado
64 Holland, Montrae	G	6-2	326	5/21/80	9	Florida State
63 Kosier, Kyle	G	6-5	309	11/27/78	10	Arizona State
91 LaDouceur, L.P.	LS	6-5	256	3/13/81	7	California
Nagy, Bill	C	6-3	318	10/26/87	0	Wisconsin
Ramirez, Manny	G	6-3	326	2/13/83	4	Texas Tech
Smith, Tyron	T	6-5	307	12/12/90	0	USC
76 Young, Sam	T	6-8	322	6/24/87	2	Notre Dame

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
24 Barber, Marion	RB	5-11	218	6/10/83	7	Minnesota
Chapas, Shaun	RB	6-2	247	5/2/88	0	Georgia
23 Choice, Tashard	RB	5-10	212	11/20/84	4	Georgia Tech
44 Gronkowski, Chris	RB	6-2	245	12/26/86	2	Arizona
28 Jones, Felix	RB	5-10	220	5/8/87	4	Arkansas
35 Miller, Lonyae	RB	6-0	221	4/29/88	1	Fresno State
Murray, DeMarco	RB	6-0	213	2/12/88	0	Oklahoma

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
19 Austin, Miles	WR	6-2	215	6/30/84	6	Monmouth (N.J.)
80 Bennett, Martellus	TE	6-6	267	3/10/87	4	Texas A&M
Bergeron, Troy	WR	6-2	195	12/3/83	2	Middle Tennessee
88 Bryant, Dez	WR	6-2	217	11/4/88	2	Oklahoma State
Harris, Dwayne	WR	5-10	203	9/16/87	0	East Carolina
16 Holley, Jesse	WR	6-2	211	1/8/84	2	North Carolina
17 Hurd, Sam	WR	6-3	209	4/24/85	6	Northern Illinois
15 Johnson, Manuel	WR	5-11	200	10/14/86	1	Oklahoma
Moturi, Jeff	WR	5-11	186	4/4/86	1	UTEP
85 Ogletree, Kevin	WR	6-1	198	8/5/87	3	Virginia
89 Phillips, John	TE	6-5	265	6/11/87	3	Virginia
Pociask, Jason	TE	6-3	259	2/9/83	3	Wisconsin
83 Rucker, Martin	TE	6-5	255	5/4/85	2	Missouri
Ryan, Titus	WR	6-0	200	5/19/84	1	Concordia (Ala.)
11 Williams, Roy	WR	6-3	215	12/20/81	8	Texas
82 Witten, Jason	TE	6-6	263	5/6/82	9	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72 Bowen, Stephen	DE	6-5	306	3/28/84	6	Hofstra
92 Brent, Josh	DT	6-2	315	1/30/88	2	Illinois
57 Butler, Victor	DE	6-2	246	7/29/87	3	Oregon State
Daniels, Alex	DE	6-4	260	11/27/86	1	Cincinnati
66 Geathers, Clifton	DE	6-7	300	12/11/87	2	South Carolina
97 Hatcher, Jason	DE	6-6	311	7/13/82	6	Grambling State
95 Lissemore, Sean	DT	6-4	306	9/11/87	2	William & Mary
99 Olshansky, Igor	DT	6-5	315	5/3/82	8	Oregon
78 Parnell, Jermey	DT	6-6	290	7/20/86	2	Ole Miss
90 Ratliff, Jay	DE	6-4	303	8/29/81	7	Auburn
96 Spears, Marcus	DE	6-4	311	3/8/83	7	LSU
93 Spencer, Anthony	DE	6-3	260	1/23/84	5	Purdue
59 Williams, Brandon	DE	6-3	246	6/21/88	3	Texas Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Ball, Alan	CB	6-1	195	3/29/85	4	Illinois
42 Church, Barry	S	6-2	218	2/11/88	2	Toledo
21 Jenkins, Mike	CB	5-10	200	3/22/85	4	South Florida
37 McCann, Bryan	CB	5-10	190	9/29/87	2	SMU
40 McCray, Danny	S	6-1	214	3/10/88	2	LSU
41 Newman, Terence	CB	5-10	193	9/4/78	9	Kansas State
27 Owusu-Ansah, Akwasi	S	6-0	208	4/10/88	2	Indiana (Pa.)
32 Scandrick, Orlando	CB	5-10	194	2/10/87	4	Boise State
36 Sendejo, Andrew	S	6-1	225	9/9/87	1	Rice
43 Sensabaugh, Gerald	S	6-1	210	6/13/83	7	North Carolina
Thomas, Josh	CB	5-10	196	5/3/89	0	Buffalo
25 Weaver, Ross	CB	6-1	203	1/9/87	1	Michigan State
10 Williams, Teddy	WR	6-3	198	7/3/88	1	Texas-San Antonio

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Balogun, Mike	LB	6-0	240	9/28/83	2	Oklahoma
51 Brooking, Keith	LB	6-2	242	10/30/75	14	Georgia Tech
Carter, Bruce	LB	6-1	241	2/19/88	0	North Carolina
54 Cummings, Kenwin	LB	6-3	250	7/23/86	3	Wingate
Greenhouse, Isaiah	LB	6-2	234	7/15/87	1	Northwestern State
56 James, Bradie	LB	6-2	245	1/17/81	9	LSU
50 Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	242	7/22/86	2	Penn State
Smith, Kelvin	LB	6-2	240	3/20/84	2	Syracuse
94 Ware, DeMarcus	LB	6-4	262	7/31/82	7	Troy
52 Williams, Leon	LB	6-3	248	7/30/83	5	Miami (Fla.)

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Brown, Kris	K	5-11	215	12/23/76	1	Nebraska
18 Buehler, David	K	6-2	225	2/5/87	3	USC
1 McBriar, Mat	P	6-0	218	7/8/79	8	Hawaii

JASON GARRETT, Head coach

Rob Ryan, defensive coordinator; **Joe DeCamillis,** special teams; **Jimmy Robinson,** asst. head coach/wide receivers; **John Garrett,** tight ends/passing-game coordinator; **Hudson Houck,** offensive line/running-game coordinator; **Wade Wilson,** quarterbacks; **Skip Peete,** running backs; **Wes Phillips,** asst. offensive line; **Dave Campo,** secondary; **Matt Eberflus,** linebackers; **Brian Baker,** defensive line; **Brett Maxie,** safeties; **Chris Boniol,** asst. special teams/kickers

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JASON GARRETT

Garrett is all about the process and consistently doing the things good teams do to win games. He's aggressive on offense and likes to attack and keep the pressure on the defense even when the Cowboys are ahead. He's conservative in his overall approach because he believes going with the percentages most of the time gives his team the best chance to win.

season. Keith Brooking, who could be relegated to backup duty in 2011, can still be a productive player. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸ Among Ryan's first tasks is to figure out how to get Mike Jenkins playing good football again. The player who was sensational in 2009 struggled in '10. Jenkins received several pass-interference penalties in the first month of the season, and it affected his confidence.

Aging Terence Newman was a little better. He had five interceptions, but three were late in the year when the Cowboys were long gone from the playoff race. Orlando Scandrick was the Cowboys' best cornerback last season. He played well in the slot, developed a knack for timing blitzes and had 2.5 sacks.

Dallas played with just three cornerbacks on the roster last season because Alan Ball could move to corner if injury necessitated a switch. But Ball, a starter at strong safety last season, was average at best. He makes few plays on the ball and is better suited to be a key backup.

Free safety Gerald Sensabaugh tied for the team lead with five interceptions last season. But, like Newman, his picks came late in the season after the Cowboys' playoff fate had already been decided. Sensabaugh is a free agent, but the Cowboys would like him back at the right price. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Much like the rest of their units in 2010, the Cowboys struggled to find any consistency in their special teams. While punter Mat McBriar was terrific with a 47.9-yard average, kicker David Buehler was erratic. He made 24 of 32 field goal attempts, but only four of seven from 30-39 yards.

Following Bryant's injury, Bryan McCann replaced him as the return specialist on kickoffs and did a nice job, but he has fumble issues. Bryant will retain his job returning punts, where he had two touchdowns in 2010. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

The Cowboys are on their fourth head coach since 2000, which gives you an idea that this franchise is forever in search of something it doesn't have. Garrett was part of the club's problems as its offensive coordinator, but he has made noticeable changes as a head coach.

He's trying to change the laid-back culture Phillips instituted, but there's no guarantee it will be a quick fix. Garrett is a smart guy, and he'll eventually get Dallas headed in the right direction. When that happens is anyone's guess.

79
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

4

NFC EAST

SN PICK 4-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	John Beck Rex Grossman
FB	Mike Sellers Darrel Young
RB	Ryan Torain Roy Helu
LT	Trent Williams Stephon Heyer
LG	Kory Lichtensteiger Erik Cook
C	Casey Rabach Erik Cook
RG	Will Montgomery Artis Hicks
RT	Jammal Brown Selvish Capers
TE	Chris Cooley Fred Davis
WR	Santana Moss Leonard Hankerson
WR	Anthony Armstrong Niles Paul
DEFENSE	
DE	Adam Carriker Phillip Daniels
NT	Anthony Bryant Ma'ake Kemoeatu
DE	Jarvis Jenkins Kedric Golston
OLB	Ryan Kerrigan Lorenzo Alexander
ILB	Perry Riley Robert Henson
ILB	London Fletcher HB Blades
OLB	Brian Orakpo Rob Jackson
LCB	Kevin Barnes Byron Westbrook
SS	LaRon Landry Reed Doughty
FS	O.J. Atogwe Kareem Moore
RCB	DeAngelo Hall Phillip Buchanon
SPECIALISTS	
K	Graham Gano
P	Sam Paulescu
KR	Brandon Banks
PR	Brandon Banks
LS	Nick Sundberg

Too much uncertainty for Redskins to rise from the NFC East cellar

By John Keim *Washington Examiner*

The chaos was supposed to end the minute Mike Shanahan signed on to be Washington's coach and executive vice president. Instead, the 2010 season turned into what could be summed up in one word when it comes to the Redskins: typical.

There was the Albert Haynesworth controversy in the summer … and during the season … and then this offseason. There was the failed tenure of quarterback Donovan McNabb, who was benched once during a game and then for Washington's final three contests. And there were more losses (10) than wins (6).

But one thing was established last season.

"We've got a guy that's steering the ship that knows what he's doing," says center Casey Rabach about Shanahan.

Now Washington just needs to get better players riding that ship. Otherwise, the Redskins could be staring at their fourth straight last-place finish in the NFC East (and fifth in the past six years).

OFFENSE

The Redskins use a zone-blocking, one-cut running scheme that has worked for Shanahan in the past. The key is having athletic linemen and a running back with good instincts. Though Shanahan does not call the plays—his son, Kyle, does—there's no doubt his imprint is on the offense. Both like to be aggressive in the passing game, looking downfield on rollouts and bootlegs. They'll use multiple-receiver sets and move wideouts around to create favorable matchups.

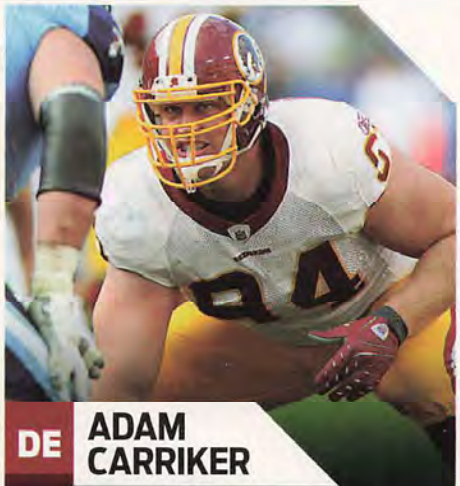
Quarterbacks ▸ The Redskins thought they solved this problem last year when they traded for McNabb. It's safe to say that didn't work out, for a variety of reasons. McNabb did not improve as the season unfolded and the Redskins want to trade him, which matches his desire to leave. But the question is, who will start at this position this season—and for how long?

The Redskins could re-sign Rex Grossman and start him until a younger player is ready to take over. Grossman was better than McNabb at hitting his targets between the hashes last year but performed poorly throwing to the outside.

Both Mike and Kyle Shanahan liked John Beck when he came out of college, but he's done nothing in the NFL thus far. Beck struggled last summer, but he didn't join the Redskins until an August trade from Baltimore. Despite the inexperience, there's an excellent chance he'll open the season in the No. 1 QB role, barring a trade or free-agent signing. **GRADE: D**

Running backs ▸ The Clinton Portis era ended in the offseason after seven seasons and 6,824 yards. He exited as the franchise's second all-time leading rusher. Ryan Torain showed exactly what Mike Shanahan thought he would last season. In 10 games, Torain rushed for

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



DE ADAM CARRIKER

Carriker finished strong last season, as he was disruptive and made plays. One reason? Better play at nose tackle, which freed up Carriker. If that keeps up in 2011, Carriker will benefit greatly.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 2-6

- **ONLINE:** www.redskins.com
- **STADIUM:** FedEx Field

Capacity: 91,704 **Turf:** Grass

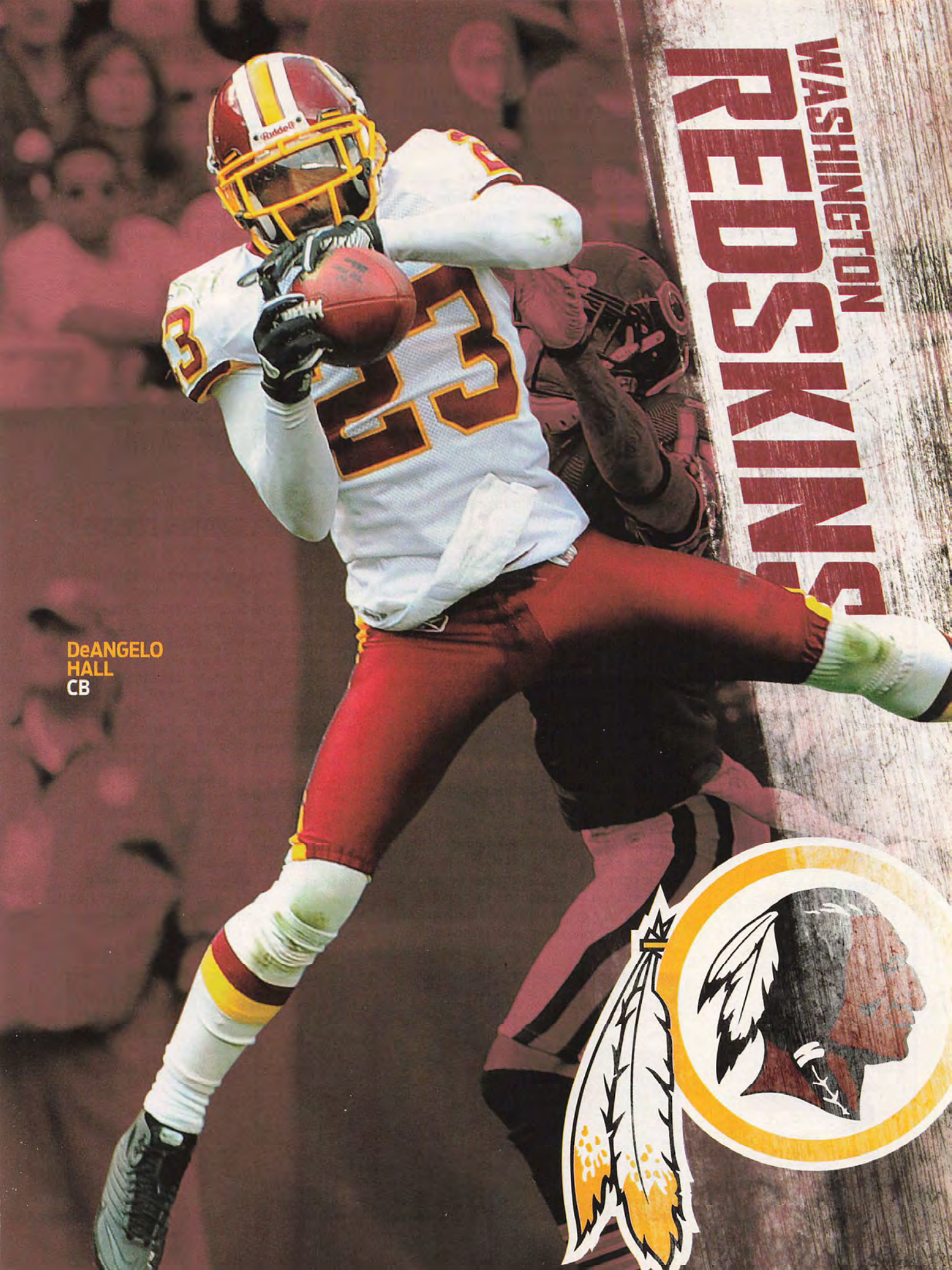
Tickets: 301-276-6800

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Redskins Park, Ashburn, Va.; 703-726-7411

REDSKINS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Darrell Green (1983-2002)	54
2	Brig Owens (1966-77)	36
3	Sammy Baugh (1937-52)	31

GREG MCWILLIAMS / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: JONATHAN NEWTON / GETTY IMAGES


WASHINGTON
REDSKINS
DeANGELO
HALL
CB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	N.Y. GIANTS	SEPT. 11	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	ARIZONA	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	@ DALLAS	SEPT. 26	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	@ ST. LOUIS	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	OPEN			
WEEK 6	PHILADELPHIA	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 7	@ CAROLINA	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	@ BUFFALO*	OCT. 30	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	SAN FRANCISCO	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ MIAMI	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	DALLAS	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 12	@ SEATTLE	NOV. 27	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	N.Y. JETS	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	NEW ENGLAND	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	@ N.Y. GIANTS	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	MINNESOTA	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	@ PHILADELPHIA	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

**in Toronto*

742 yards (4.5 per carry) and proved to be a good fit for the one-cut attack. But the knock on Torain is durability and, until he goes through a season with minimal injury issues, it will always be a criticism.

That's why Washington drafted Roy Helu, who adds speed and the ability to carry 10 times a game this season. Evan Royster might help, too. Keiland Williams was a nice story last season, but he's better as a third-down back because of his ability to pick up blitzes.

Mike Sellers remains a capable fullback, though he'll be 36 this season and is nearing the end of his career. The Redskins lack depth here, as James Davis is inexperienced.

GRADE: C

Wide receivers ▶ Santana Moss is past his prime but his value is likely greater to the Redskins than other teams. So there's a decent chance he'll return rather than leave via free agency. Moss had a productive year in the slot with 93 catches, but scored only six touchdowns and is not a downfield threat anymore. Anthony Armstrong, a surprise out of training camp in 2010, now fills that role. At 28 years old, Armstrong played his first year in the NFL and caught 44 passes while averaging 19.8 yards per catch.

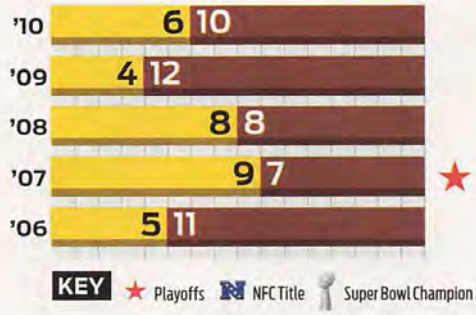
Washington tried to solve depth issues by drafting three receivers, including Leonard Hankerson, who could help immediately. Niles Paul adds speed and big-play ability, while Aldrick Robinson was productive in college. Brandon Banks is too small and too important as a return man to get more than a few plays at receiver.

Tight end Chris Cooley is still playing near a Pro Bowl level, while his backup, Fred Davis, continues to display athleticism. However, Davis' chances will be limited as long as Cooley is around. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▶ Left tackle Trent Williams showed why the Redskins drafted him with the No. 4 overall pick last season, as his athleticism saved him on multiple occasions. Williams must become more consistent in 2011, and that begins with spending more time putting in the necessary work on and off the field. The interior struggled at times as the Redskins have two players who are playing guard but better suited for center in Kory Lichtensteiger and Will Montgomery.

At 33, center Rabach's play has declined. But the coaches love his intangibles, especially how well he adjusts to blocking schemes. Still, the reality is the Redskins lack anyone with great power inside. Right tackle is another

5-YEAR RECORD: 32-48



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Redskins)

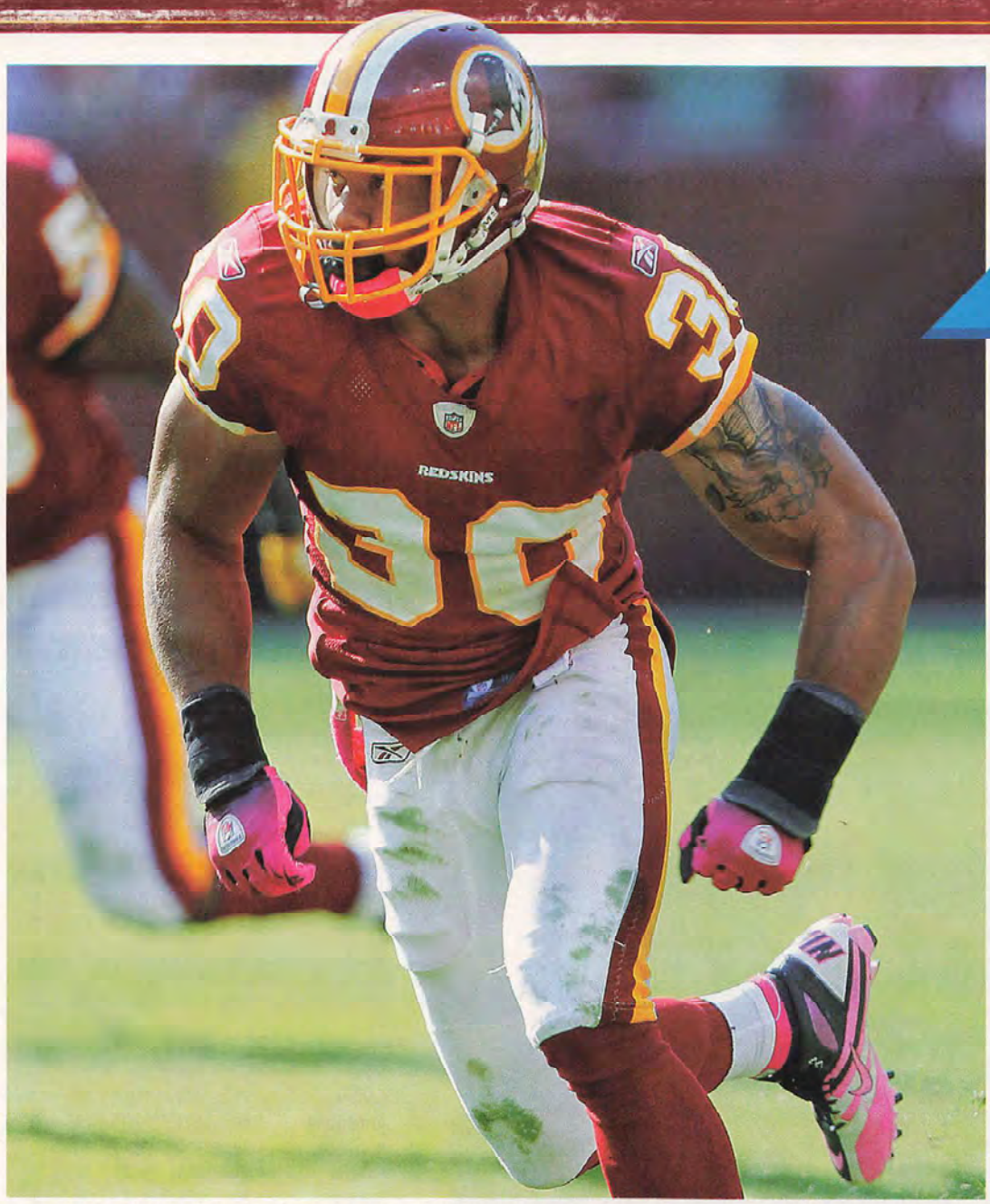
"You have to have a nose tackle to play that scheme because it's designed to stop the run and that's the core piece to stopping the run. ... Brian Orakpo is a good player for them. He's a core guy in that scheme. But you look at the core pieces to that defense; they don't have a nose tackle, but they have a pass rusher in Orakpo. Do they need another one? Absolutely. Is it critical? No. But Ryan Kerrigan should be fine; I like him. At worst, he's a Justin Smith (type). Ryan will have a long, productive career. ... They've got age at linebacker, but linebackers don't make that scheme. You can create them with your scheme. ...

"They could use a blue-chip receiver. I like Santana Moss and always have, but he doesn't scare you. And I like Chris Cooley, but he's a complementary player. He won't beat you. I like Ryan Torain. Can he be 'the guy?' Yeah, but he can't stay healthy. You have to have someone with him. Roy Helu has to be in the right system to produce, but this is the right system for him. Mike Shanahan is great at getting his team to run the ball well regardless of who is the back. I just think he has to get that defense addressed. But I love his offense; he doesn't need five or six Pro Bowlers to make it work."

FANTASY SPIN

Rookie running back Roy Helu will have to compete for carries in a crowded Redskins backfield, but he could be a late-season gem for patient fantasy owners.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

LaRON LANDRY

"LaRon Landry is an in-the-box safety and is real forceful against the run. He's a little tight in coverage, but he's a guy who can make big plays for you. He's good, but he's not real strong mentally and that's where he has problems, especially against the pass. But he's a heat-seeking missile in the run game. He's tougher than heck and a big-play guy in run support, but he needs help over the top. ...

"He's like having an extra linebacker on the field because of how he plays the run, and he hits like a linebacker. It's so hard to find a cover safety anymore. That's why some teams might take a corner who lacks a step and move him inside. But LaRon is a good strong safety."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	335.9	18
Rushing	91.3	30
Passing	244.6	8
Scoring	302	25
Punt Returns	10.8	10
Kick Returns	23.0	14
Red Zone TD %	51.2	19
Total Defense	389.2	31
Against Rush	127.6	26
Against Pass	261.7	31
Points Allowed	377	21
Interceptions	14	19t
Sacks	29	25
Turnover Diff.	-4	19t

hole with the uncertain status of free agent Jammal Brown.

Two draft picks from last year, Erik Cook and Selvish Capers, need more seasoning. The scheme can help the line look better, but they still need to add talent. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

Washington's defense had a rocky transition to the 3-4 last season—the first time the Redskins had ever used that front on a full-time basis. They lacked the personnel to be effective and at times that limited coordinator Jim Haslett's plan. He wanted to trick the offense through alignments and with sets that included six linebackers on the field. Haslett will blitz anyone, partly because the team could not pressure without this tactic.

Defensive line ➤ If Haynesworth had bought into the change and Ma'ake Kemoeatu had been healthy, then the Redskins' front would have been more effective last season. But neither scenario developed, and now the Redskins are seeking a disruptive lineman as well as a nose tackle.

Reserve nose tackle Anthony Bryant is a solid backup and played well in the final two contests. If the Redskins find consistency up front, then their defense can improve dramatically. They drafted nose tackle Chris Neild, but he's a seventh-rounder and can't be relied on to solve this hole right away.

End Adam Carriker showed flashes late last season of being more productive.

Second-round pick Jarvis Jenkins should provide immediate help at right end. Kedric Golston is better as a third

end, while Vonnie Holliday's strength is as a pass-rushing reserve. Phillip Daniels is 38 but can still help against the run. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ➤ Brian Orakpo has recorded 19.5 sacks in his first two seasons, though he needed help on the other side. Enter 2011 first-round pick Ryan Kerrigan, a high-motor pass rusher from Purdue who will be switching from end to outside linebacker. If he produces, that will free Orakpo to generate more pressure on the opposition.

London Fletcher continues to play at a solid level but needs more help from the tackles. Lorenzo Alexander transitioned from being a defensive lineman and plans to lose weight to add speed, but his strength is playing the run. If Rocky McIntosh bolts in free agency, the Redskins will have a need for another inside linebacker.

His replacement could be second-year man Perry Riley, who showed flashes in limited action in 2010. Chris Wilson adds speed as a backup outside linebacker. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ➤ The Redskins added safety Oshiomogho Atogwe prior to the lockout, and he's a good fit for Haslett's defense. Atogwe played well

DRAFT REPORT

Despite not having a third- or fourth-round pick, the Redskins ended up making 12 selections. **Ryan Kerrigan** and **Jarvis Jenkins** will start on the defensive line this fall. Kerrigan will be a nice pass rusher opposite Brian Orakpo, while Jenkins will likely play at nose tackle or end.

Third-rounder **Leonard Hankerson** has the potential to be a productive receiver as a rookie. Running back **Roy Helu** will work with Ryan Torain to improve the backfield in 2011, while **Niles Paul** and **Aldrick Robinson** will compete for playing time at wide receiver. Cornerback **Brandyn Thompson**, guard **Maurice Hurt** and nose tackle **Chris Neild** will provide depth to a team in need of talented young backups.

Kerrigan

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	16	Ryan Kerrigan	DE	6-4	267	Purdue
2	9	Jarvis Jenkins	DT	6-4	310	Clemson
3	15	Leonard Hankerson	WR	6-1	209	Miami (Fla.)
4	8	Roy Helu	RB	5-11	219	Nebraska
5	15	DeJon Gomes	SS	5-11	200	Nebraska
5	24	Niles Paul	WR	6-1	224	Nebraska
6	12	Evan Royster	RB	6-0	212	Penn State
6	13	Aldrick Robinson	WR	5-10	184	SMU
7	10	Brandyn Thompson	CB	5-11	188	Boise State
7	14	Maurice Hurt	G	6-3	318	Florida
7	21	Markus White	DE	6-3	266	Florida State
7	50	Chris Neild	DT	6-2	319	West Virginia

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	13-7	Dallas Cowboys
09/19	L	27-30	Houston Texans
09/26	L	16-30	St. Louis Rams
10/03	W	17-12	Philadelphia Eagles
10/10	W	16-13	Green Bay Packers
10/17	L	24-27	Indianapolis Colts
10/24	W	17-14	Chicago Bears
10/31	L	25-37	Detroit Lions
11/15	L	28-59	Philadelphia Eagles
11/21	W	19-16	Tennessee Titans
11/28	L	13-17	Minnesota Vikings
12/05	L	7-31	New York Giants
12/12	L	16-17	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/19	L	30-33	Dallas Cowboys
12/26	W	20-17	Jacksonville Jaguars
01/02	L	14-17	New York Giants

WON 6, LOST 10

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Torain	164	742	4.5	54	4
K. Williams	65	261	4.0	32	3
Portis	54	227	4.2	27	2
McNabb	29	151	5.2	36	0
J. Davis	15	51	3.4	14	0
Young	4	19	4.8	16	0
Banks	2	6	3.0	3	0
Grossman	3	6	2.0	5	0
Sellers	4	2	0.5	1	0
Johnson	5	2	0.4	7	0
Bidwell	1	0	0.0	0	0
Moss	5	-6	-1.2	7	0
WASHINGTON	**351**	**1461**	**4.2**	**54**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**444**	**2041**	**4.6**	**71**	**15**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Moss	93	1115	12.0	56	6
Cooley	77	849	11.0	35	3
Armstrong	44	871	19.8	76	3
K. Williams	39	309	7.9	36	2
F. Davis	21	316	15.0	71	3
Sellers	20	224	11.2	28	0
Torain	18	125	6.9	20	2
Galloway	12	173	14.4	62	0
R. Williams	8	109	13.6	34	0
Portis	5	55	11.0	14	0
J. Davis	4	45	11.3	28	0
Austin	3	47	15.7	28	0
Banks	2	10	5.0	15	0
Paulsen	2	10	5.0	9	1
Young	1	3	3.0	3	1
WASHINGTON	**349**	**4261**	**12.2**	**76**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**367**	**4187**	**11.4**	**92**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
McNabb	472	275	3377	14	15
Grossman	133	74	884	7	4
WASHINGTON	**605**	**349**	**4261**	**21**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**578**	**367**	**4363**	**23**	**14**

SACKS WASHINGTON 29, OPPONENTS 46

Orakpo 8.5, Carter 2.5, Fletcher 2.5, Haynesworth 2.5, Holliday 2.5, Daniels 2, McIntosh 2, Alexander 1.5, Carriker 1.5, Doughty 1, Jackson 1, Landry 1, Jarmon 0.5

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER

as of May 11

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Beck, John	QB	6-2	215	8/21/81	5	BYU
8 Grossman, Rex	QB	6-1	236	8/23/80	9	Florida
5 McNabb, Donovan	QB	6-2	240	11/25/76	13	Syracuse

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77 Brown, Jammal	T	6-6	313	3/30/81	7	Oklahoma
60 Capers, Selvish	T	6-5	315	11/13/85	1	West Virginia
58 Cook, Erik	C	6-6	320	7/05/87	1	New Mexico
Fulton, Xavier	T	6-5	301	4/18/86	2	Illinois
74 Heyer, Stephon	T	6-6	332	1/16/84	5	Maryland
75 Hicks, Artis	T	6-4	314	11/28/78	10	Memphis
Hurt, Maurice	G	6-3	318	9/8/87	0	Florida
78 Lichtensteiger, Kory	G	6-3	290	3/22/85	3	Bowling Green
63 Montgomery, Will	G	6-3	307	2/13/83	5	Virginia Tech
68 Oldenburg, Clint	T	6-5	310	9/09/83	2	Colorado State
61 Rabach, Casey	C	6-4	288	9/24/77	11	Wisconsin
57 Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-0	246	7/29/87	2	California
71 Williams, Mike	T	6-7	337	1/11/80	7	Texas
71 Williams, Trent	T	6-5	315	7/19/88	2	Oklahoma

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
40 Brown, Andre	RB	6-0	224	12/15/86	2	N.C. State
24 Davis, James	RB	5-11	218	1/1/86	3	Clemson
Helu, Roy	RB	5-11	219	12/7/88	0	Nebraska
McNeal, Shawnbrey	RB	5-9	190	10/17/88	1	SMU
Royster, Evan	RB	6-0	212	11/26/87	0	Penn State
2 Simpson, Chad	RB	5-9	216	8/22/85	4	Morgan State
46 Torain, Ryan	RB	6-1	212	8/10/86	3	Arizona State
35 Williams, Keiland	RB	5-11	223	8/14/86	2	LSU

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Armstrong, Anthony	WR	5-11	182	3/29/83	2	West Texas A&M
18 Austin, Terrence	WR	5-11	175	8/25/88	2	UCLA
16 Banks, Brandon	WR	5-7	150	12/21/87	2	Kansas State
47 Cooley, Chris	TE	6-3	250	7/11/82	8	Utah State
86 Davis, Fred	TE	6-4	255	1/15/86	4	USC
85 Furrey, Mike	WR	6-0	192	3/12/77	9	Northern Iowa
Hankerson, Leonard	WR	6-1	209	5/9/88	0	Miami (Fla.)
Johnson, Taurus	WR	6-1	205	4/13/86	1	South Florida
Jones, Edgar	TE	6-3	262	12/1/84	5	Southeast Missouri State
12 Kelly, Malcolm	WR	6-4	226	12/30/86	4	Oklahoma
89 Moss, Santana	WR	5-10	209	6/1/79	11	Miami (Fla.)
Paul, Niles	WR	6-1	224	8/9/89	0	Nebraska
82 Paulsen, Logan	TE	6-5	264	2/26/87	2	UCLA
Price, Maurice	WR	6-1	197	9/11/85	2	Charleston Southern
Robinson, Aldrick	WR	5-10	184	9/24/88	0	SMU
45 Sellers, Mike	TE	6-3	268	7/21/75	12	Walla Walla (Wash.) CC
87 Williams, Roydell	WR	6-0	178	3/14/81	5	Tulane

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
97 Alexander, Lorenzo	DT	6-1	272	5/31/83	5	California
76 Bryant, Anthony	DT	6-3	376	11/6/81	5	Alabama
94 Carriker, Adam	DT	6-6	311	5/6/84	5	Nebraska
93 Daniels, Phillip	DE	6-5	302	3/4/73	16	Georgia
Duncan, Rashaad	DT	6-2	315	12/10/86	1	Pittsburgh
64 Golston, Kedric	DT	6-4	300	5/30/83	6	Georgia
92 Haynesworth, Albert	DT	6-6	335	6/17/81	10	Tennessee
91 Holliday, Vonnie	DE	6-5	285	12/11/75	14	North Carolina
50 Jackson, Rob	DE	6-4	255	11/3/85	2	Kansas State
90 Jarmon, Jeremy	DE	6-3	286	11/20/87	3	Kentucky
Jenkins, Jarvis	DE	6-4	310	4/24/88	0	Clemson
73 Joseph, Joe	DT	6-2	315	10/20/85	1	Miami (Fla.)
96 Kemoeatu, Maake	DT	6-5	364	1/10/79	10	Utah
Neild, Chris	DT	6-2	319	12/1/88	0	West Virginia
98 Orakpo, Brian	DE	6-4	255	7/31/86	3	Texas
72 Scott, Darrion	DE	6-3	310	10/25/81	5	Ohio State
Stehle, Jeff	DE	6-6	291	4/4/87	1	Wisconsin
95 Wilson, Chris	DE	6-4	247	7/10/82	5	Northwood

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Atogwe, Oshiomogho	S	5-11	205	6/23/81	7	Stanford
25 Barnes, Kevin	CB	6-1	185	9/15/86	3	Maryland
31 Buchanon, Phillip	CB	5-11	186	9/19/80	10	Miami (Fla.)
37 Doughty, Reed	S	6-1	206	11/4/82	6	Northern Colorado
Gomes, DeJon	CB	5-11	200	11/17/87	0	Nebraska
23 Hall, DeAngelo	CB	5-10	192	11/19/83	8	Virginia Tech
20 Harris, Macho	CB	6-0	200	2/16/86	3	Virginia Tech
48 Horton, Chris	S	6-1	221	12/29/84	4	UCLA
29 Jones, Reggie	CB	6-0	193	3/15/86	2	Portland State
30 Landry, LaRon	S	6-0	217	10/14/84	5	LSU
41 Moore, Kareem	S	5-11	217	8/13/84	4	Nicholls State
38 Rashad, Sha'reff	CB	6-0	198	10/6/86	1	UCF
22 Rogers, Carlos	CB	6-0	189	7/2/81	7	Auburn
32 Russell, Anderson	S	6-0	205	5/30/87	2	Ohio State
Thompson, Brandyn	CB	5-10	188	10/9/89	0	Boise State
34 Westbrook, Byron	CB	5-10	204	12/26/84	3	Salisbury State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
54 Blades, H.B.	LB	5-10	242	9/30/84	5	Pittsburgh
59 Fletcher, London	LB	5-10	245	5/19/75	14	John Carroll
51 Henson, Robert	LB	6-0	247	1/27/86	3	TCU
Kerrigan, Ryan	LB	6-4	267	8/16/88	0	Purdue
52 McIntosh, Rocky	LB	6-2	239	11/15/82	6	Miami (Fla.)
56 Riley, Perry	LB	6-0	238	5/3/88	2	LSU
White, Markus	LB	6-3	266	11/25/87	0	Florida State
36 Young, Darrel	LB	5-11	245	4/8/1987	2	Villanova

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
6 Bidwell, Josh	P	6-3	228	3/13/76	12	Oregon
4 Gano, Graham	K	6-1	196	4/9/87	2	Florida State
1 Paulescu, Sam	P	6-0	195	4/18/84	3	Oregon State

MIKE SHANAHAN, Head coach

Kyle Shanahan, offensive coordinator; **Jim Haslett,** defensive coordinator; **Danny Smith,** special teams coordinator; **Bobby Turner,** asst. head coach/running backs; **Chris Foerster,** offensive line; **Keenan McCardell,** wide receivers; **Matt LaFleur,** quarterbacks; **Sean McVay,** tight ends; **Lou Spanos,** linebackers; **Jacob Burney,** defensive line; **Bob Slowik,** defensive backs; **Steve Jackson,** safeties; **Richard Hightower,** asst. special teams

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

S Oshiomogho Atogwe (FA/Rams)

SUBTRACTIONS

RB Clinton Portis (FA), **G Derrick Dockery** (FA), **G Derrick Dockery** (FA), **LB Andre Carter** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE SHANAHAN

Shanahan wants both sides of the ball to be aggressive. Offensively, he looks for big plays downfield, as does his play-calling son, Kyle. Mike Shanahan is unafraid to take chances on players who are talented but unproven, and has no problem going for it on fourth down.

under Haslett when both were in St. Louis. Atogwe is not a great hitter, but he plays with a veteran's savvy in terms of the angles he takes and how he plays the ball. Kareem Moore struggled as a starter at free safety last year, but should be a competent backup.

LaRon Landry excelled in his return to full-time duty at strong safety. He blitzed well and made plays in the box. Landry still struggles in coverage, but through nine games last season he was in the discussion for Defensive Player of the Year before a strained Achilles forced him to the sideline.

Cornerback DeAngelo Hall received a Pro Bowl bid thanks to six interceptions in 2010, but his overall play was merely OK. However, Hall is always in a position to make a lot of plays. The other cornerback spot has been filled by Carlos Rogers the past six seasons but is now likely open, as Rogers isn't expected back. Kevin Barnes was OK in limited duty last year and will challenge for the job, though he's probably best suited as a No. 3 corner. If Reed Doughty returns, Washington will have solid depth at safety. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Redskins have one of the best special teams coaches in Danny Smith, but even with him this is an inconsistent unit—largely because of their kicking game. Graham Gano made just 24 of 35 field goal attempts last year, and will likely have competition this summer. It's hard to imagine Sam Paulescu returning as the punter. Banks is an explosive return man, but was slowed by a knee injury in 2010. That's one reason Washington drafted Paul. **GRADE: C**

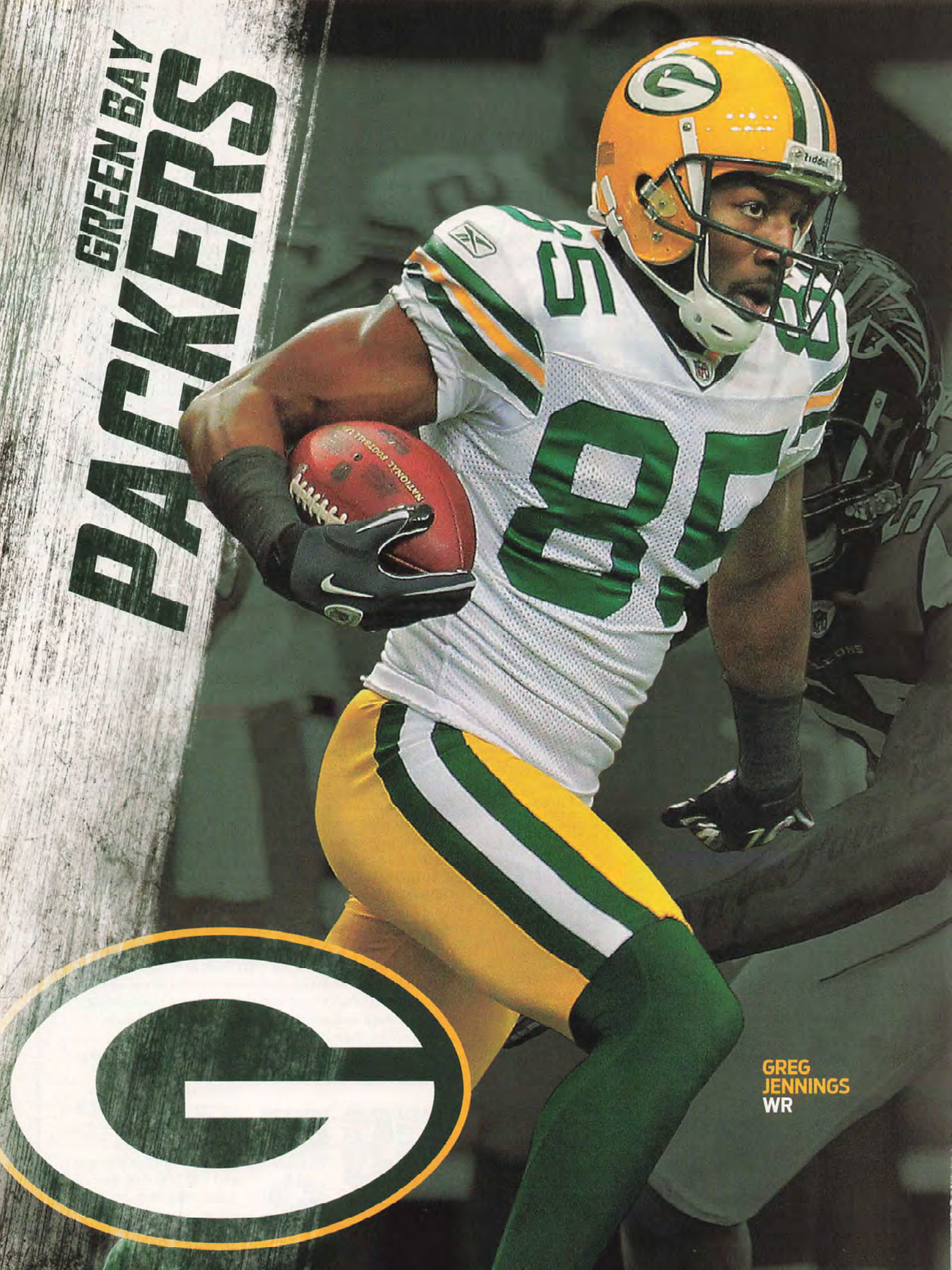
BOTTOM LINE

The Redskins have a long way to go to even be in the playoff conversation. Even if everything goes right and they stay healthy, the Redskins lag behind the rest of the NFC East in terms of talent and will enter the season with a big question mark at quarterback—something their division brethren don't face.

Washington also still needs to find a legitimate playmaker on offense and the defense will have to hope Kerrigan and other youngsters produce while finding a legitimate nose tackle. The Redskins' offensive system is sound and will help right the ship—once they get more talent.

68
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY


GREEN BAY
PACKERS
GREG
JENNINGS
WR

Packers' talent set to make all other opponents Green with envy

By Tom Silverstein *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

What do you get the team that has everything: a franchise quarterback, one of the best young defensive players in the game and a grade A coaching staff?

If you're going shopping for the Packers, you don't have to go much farther than their own locker room to find the best gift.

Give them a healthy Jermichael Finley, Morgan Burnett, Ryan Grant, Nick Barnett, Mike Neal, Brandon Chillar and Brad Jones, and they'll be as content as a fantasy football owner with the No. 1 overall pick.

That's right. The Packers are better on paper than they were a year ago—when they won the Super Bowl.

OFFENSE

Mike McCarthy's version of the West Coast offense is a fast-tempo, pass-oriented rhythm system that places tremendous responsibility at the feet of the quarterback. The offense's ability to run all of its plays out of any number of formations creates the matchups McCarthy wants and forces defenses to think on their feet.

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers often has run-pass options at the line of scrimmage, which allow him to get out of bad plays based on how the defense lines up. The running game is zone-based and features basic inside and outside runs that rely on the linemen being agile enough to reach the second level and backs instinctive enough to read cutback lanes.

Quarterbacks ▸ Few teams are lucky enough to transition from a team legend to a Super Bowl winner in just three seasons, but the Packers were able to do so because they tapped into every ounce of Rodgers' athletic talent. In one season, he went from a guy determined to make a big play on every down to a master of an offense that takes what a defense gives it.

McCarthy would like to take some pressure off Rodgers with a better running game, especially given the two concussions he suffered last year. But he also doesn't want to take decision-making out of Rodgers' hands and will continue to let him read the defense's presnap look to determine the best play.

Behind Rodgers, Matt Flynn proved capable of playing at a high level in a near-victory at New England late in the year. Rather than deal the unflappable Flynn before he becomes a free agent next year, the Packers will keep him around because they feel they can win with him if Rodgers goes down. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸ This is James Starks' world—if he wants it. Starks revived a dormant running game at the end of last season with some timely runs and a knack for never losing yardage.

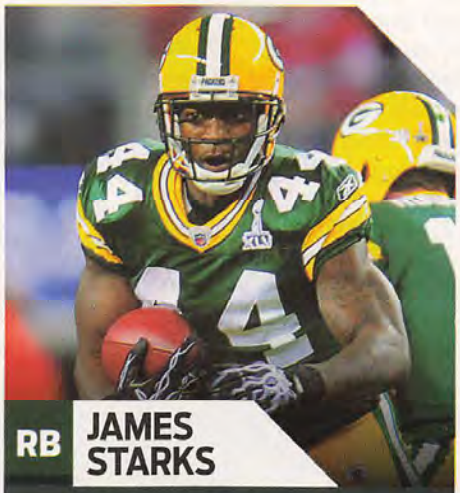
Ideally for the Packers, Grant would

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 7-1

▸ **ONLINE:** www.packers.com
▸ **STADIUM:** Lambeau Field
Capacity: 72,922 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 920-569-7501
▸ **TRAINING CAMP:** Clark Hinkle Field, Green Bay, Wis.; 920-569-7500

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



RB JAMES STARKS

Starks missed all of training camp and didn't have a single carry his rookie season until Dec. 5. He wound up taking over the starting job in the playoffs and one can only wonder what he'll do with a full training camp.

PACKERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Bobby Dillon** *(1952-59)*	52	2	**Willie Wood** *(1960-71)*	48	3	**Herb Adderley** *(1961-69)*	39

NFC NORTH **1**

SN PICK **13-3**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Aaron Rodgers Matt Flynn
FB	John Kuhn Quinn Johnson
RB	James Starks Ryan Grant
LT	Chad Clifton Derek Sherrod
LG	T.J. Lang Marshall Newhouse
C	Scott Wells Nick McDonald
RG	Josh Sitton Nick McDonald
RT	Bryan Bulaga T.J. Lang
TE	Jermichael Finley D.J. Williams
WR	Greg Jennings James Jones
WR	Donald Driver Jordy Nelson
DEFENSE	
DE	Ryan Pickett Jarius Wynn
NT	B.J. Raji Ryan Pickett
DE	Mike Neal C.J. Wilson
OLB	Clay Matthews Brad Jones
ILB	Desmond Bishop Brandon Chillar
ILB	A.J. Hawk Nick Barnett
OLB	Frank Zombo Erik Walden
LCB	Charles Woodson Sam Shields
SS	Morgan Burnett Charlie Peprah
FS	Nick Collins Jarrett Bush
RCB	Tramon Williams Brandon Underwood
SPECIALISTS	
K	Mason Crosby
P	Tim Masthay
KR	Randall Cobb
PR	Randall Cobb
LS	Brett Goode

MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: TODD KIRKLAND / ICON SMI

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	NEW ORLEANS	SEPT. 8	8:30
WEEK 2	@ CAROLINA	SEPT. 18	1:00
WEEK 3	@ CHICAGO	SEPT. 25	4:15
WEEK 4	DENVER	OCT. 2	4:15
WEEK 5	@ ATLANTA	OCT. 9	8:20
WEEK 6	ST. LOUIS	OCT. 16	1:00
WEEK 7	@ MINNESOTA	OCT. 23	4:15
WEEK 8	OPEN		
WEEK 9	@ SAN DIEGO	NOV. 6	4:15
WEEK 10	MINNESOTA	NOV. 14	8:30
WEEK 11	TAMPA BAY	NOV. 20	1:00
WEEK 12	@ DETROIT	NOV. 24	12:30
WEEK 13	@ N.Y. GIANTS	DEC. 4	4:15
WEEK 14	OAKLAND	DEC. 11	1:00
WEEK 15	@ KANSAS CITY	DEC. 18	1:00
WEEK 16	CHICAGO	DEC. 25	8:20
WEEK 17	DETROIT	JAN. 1	1:00

SCORE (W / L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

come back and look more flexible and elusive than when he started the season last year. He appeared stiff and too bulky before suffering a season-ending injury in the opener.

And don't discount third-round pick Alex Green, who not only can step into the third-down role if Brandon Jackson leaves in free agency but allow Starks and Grant to take a breather. John Kuhn remains a vital part of the team and will be used as a halfback and fullback. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ The future is somewhat cloudy for this group due to Donald Driver's advanced age (36) and potential free-agent losses this year and next.

One thing is certain: Jordy Nelson has gained considerable traction within the unit and will be a much bigger factor in 2011. He finished tied with Greg Jennings for the team lead in postseason catches (21) and had a touchdown in the Super Bowl victory over the Steelers.

Driver didn't have a 100-yard game last season and will probably play less this year, even if he's deemed the No. 2 wideout behind the underrated but amazingly productive Jennings. Second-round pick Randall Cobb is an outstanding slot prospect who may grease the skids for James Jones' departure in free agency.

The tall, athletic and sure-handed Finley is an impossible matchup at times for opposing defenses, as he often serves as a wide receiver. Backup tight end Andrew Quarless will have a chance to fill any voids left by the receiver position, but will have to fight off fifth-round pick D.J. Williams, an undersized but speedy receiving target. **GRADE: A-**

Offensive line ▸ General manager Ted Thompson moved to secure the team's long-term future in the draft, using his top pick to select Mississippi State left tackle Derek Sherrod.

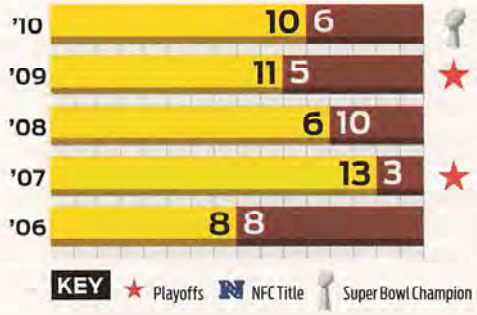
Chad Clifton hung in well in his 11th season at left tackle, but he's now 35 and could suffer a decline soon. The quick-footed Sherrod will learn from Clifton and, if necessary, step in for him or move to right tackle so 2010 first-round pick Bryan Bulaga can fill in on the left side. Bulaga had his ups and downs playing right tackle, but eventually grew into the position and should be solid for years to come.

Right guard Josh Sitton is a Pro Bowl talent who played terrific as a run blocker last year. It's likely left guard Daryn Colledge and backup Jason Spitz will be gone in free agency, so T.J. Lang will be given one last chance to prove he's starter-worthy. If he blows it, Marshall Newhouse or Nick McDonald will be the starter. **GRADE: B-**

DEFENSE

Coordinator Dom Capers runs his 3-4 defense with talent in mind and isn't afraid of highlighting players who might be overlooked

5-YEAR RECORD: 48-32



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Packers)

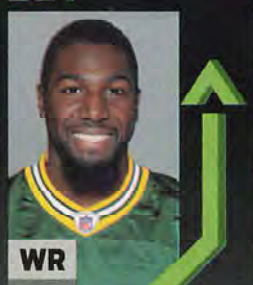
"They've got so many weapons on the perimeter with (Greg) Jennings and (Donald) Driver; those two guys can really cause you some issues. (Coach) Mike McCarthy offense's is going to be very multiple. You're going to get personnel groupings where there are no running backs in the game and they have five wide receivers all the way to three running backs in the ballgame at one time. ...

"Then, when you flip it over, you've got a Dom Capers defense that has got all the multiplicity that he has in terms of his blitz packages and his ability to move people around. Defensively, (outside linebacker) Clay Matthews, I think had arguably a defensive MVP-type season. It's a very talented team."

FANTASY SPIN

Jermichael Finley enjoyed two 100-yard games in four contests before a season-ending injury. Finley is one of Aaron Rodgers' favorite reads and could emerge as the top fantasy tight end.

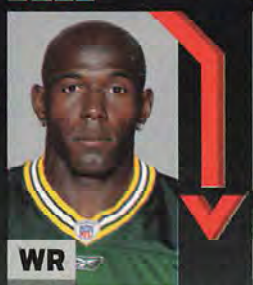
BUY



WR

Greg Jennings

SELL



WR

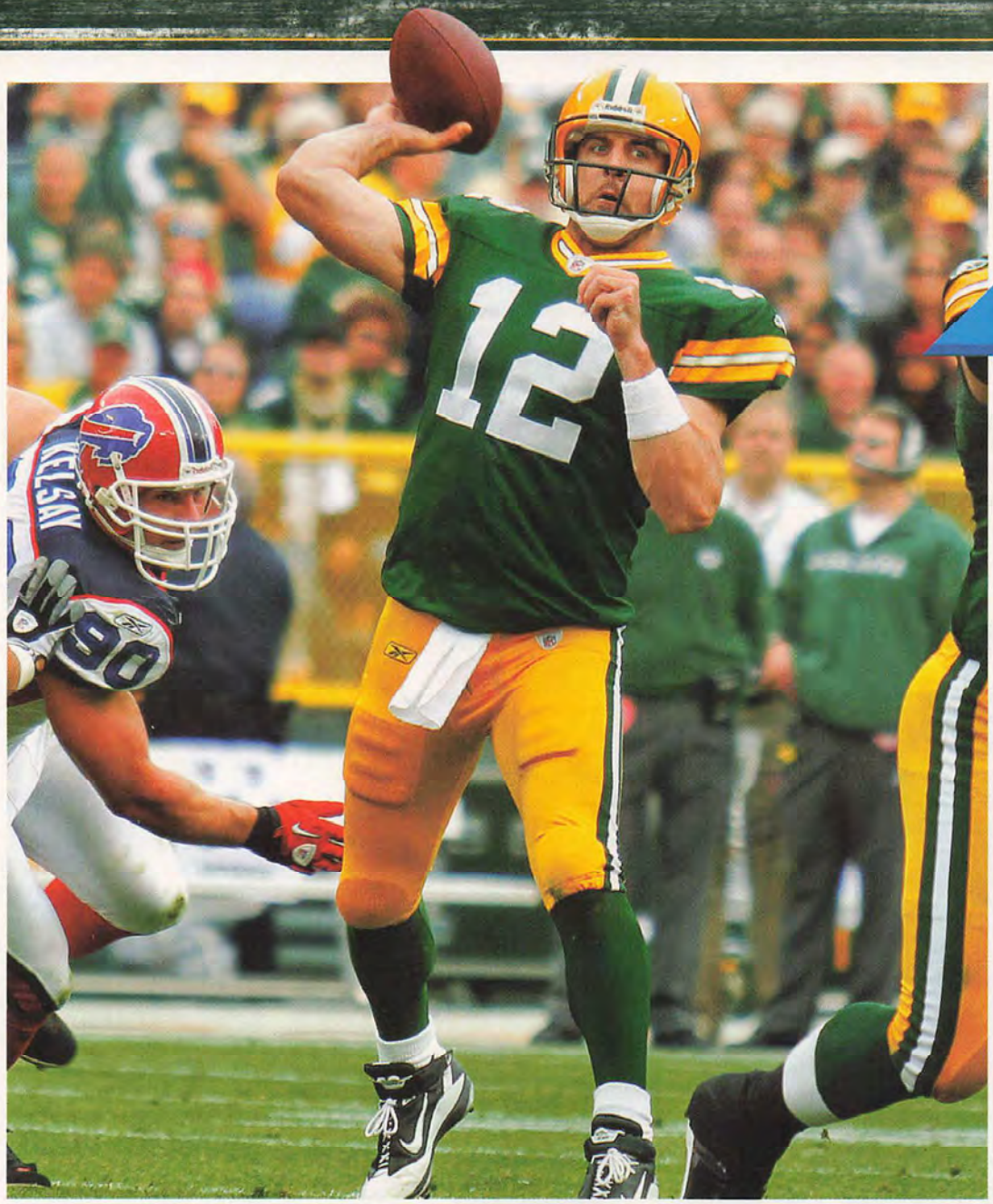
Donald Driver

SLEEPER

WR

Jordy Nelson

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



ALLEN FREDRICKSON / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

AARON RODGERS

"He's got a great feel for the people around him and he is an exceptionally smart quarterback in that he knows where everybody is supposed to be. He's good at reading coverages and he knows how long he's got before he has to bail. It's a feel thing. It looks like he has eyes in the back of his head. One of his best moves is his spinout move to his left. And he does a great job when he's going to his left, squaring his shoulders and throwing the ball downfield. ...

"He's dangerous. I think he's more dangerous outside the pocket. It breaks down and they extend the play and they kind of ad-lib a little bit. That concerns you. You have to plaster to his receivers and they do a good job of getting open."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	358.1	9
Rushing	100.4	24
Passing	257.8	5
Scoring	388	10
Punt Returns	7.9	22
Kick Returns	20.1	26
Red Zone TD %	60.4	6
Total Defense	309.1	5
Against Rush	114.9	18
Against Pass	194.2	5
Points Allowed	240	2
Interceptions	24	2
Sacks	47	2t
Turnover Diff.	10	4

in other 3-4 schemes. He has no problem going to a nickel package on first down, using five linebackers in passing situations or putting a cornerback in spy mode to shadow a running quarterback. Few have the knack for anticipating the offense's next move like Capers.

Defensive line ▸ The emergence of nose tackle B.J. Raji made all the difference for this unit last season. He was an absolute workhorse and by the end of the year was creating pass-rush problems for opposing offenses.

Left end Ryan Pickett might be the most underrated player on the team. He gums up the strong side in the base defense and gets to more ballcarriers than you would expect for such a big man.

Cullen Jenkins, the best pass rusher of the bunch, could be lost to free agency and replacing him will be difficult, especially in nickel situations. Also, Mike Neal is coming off a torn rotator cuff and has shown susceptibility to injury.

End C.J. Wilson could be the wild card because he has the run-stopping ability to replace Jenkins or Howard Green and enough talent to increase his sack total from last season. However, it wouldn't be the same as having a healthy Neal. Justin Harrell is coming off a torn ACL and, while he looked good in camp last year and made the team, his number might be up. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸ Capers kept losing guys last year, but thanks to some outstanding scouting he was able to patch the holes with backups and NFL hopefuls. Now he has three returning starters in Clay Matthews, Desmond Bishop and A.J. Hawk, along with a bunch of guys hungry for playing time.

Barnett is one of those and he's going to have to earn his place back in the lineup. The Packers might put him on the trading block once a new collective bargaining agreement is in place, as they have already signed Bishop and Hawk to long-term deals.

Another question mark is Chillar, who underwent a third surgery on his shoulder and has to prove he can come back healthy.

Erik Walden and Frank Zombo shared the right-outside position last season, but Brad Jones was the starter coming out of camp last year and won't go down without a fight. Jones is excellent at using leverage in the running game and could force a timeshare, much like last year.

GRADE: B

Secondary ➤ The rise of rookie nickel back Sam Shields into a starting-caliber player takes enormous pressure off Capers. Charles Woodson is starting to show his age as a wide corner and needs to be in the slot, where he can use his outstanding tackling skills to press the run.

Shields' presence guarantees the team has two young corners in place for at least three more seasons. The other is Tramon Williams, whose confidence rose with each breakup and interception (24 and nine, respectively, including the playoffs), and resulted in him getting a Pro

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	27-20	Philadelphia Eagles
09/19	W	34-7	Buffalo Bills
09/27	L	17-20	Chicago Bears
10/03	W	28-26	Detroit Lions
10/10	L	13-16	Washington Redskins
10/17	L	20-23	Miami Dolphins
10/24	W	28-24	Minnesota Vikings
10/31	W	9-0	New York Jets
11/07	W	45-7	Dallas Cowboys
11/21	W	31-3	Minnesota Vikings
11/28	L	17-20	Atlanta Falcons
12/05	W	34-16	San Francisco 49ers
12/12	L	3-7	Detroit Lions
12/19	L	27-31	New England Patriots
12/26	W	45-17	New York Giants
01/02	W	10-3	Chicago Bears

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	190	703	3.7	71	3
Rodgers	64	356	5.6	27	4
Kuhn	84	281	3.3	18	4
Starks	29	101	3.5	16	0
Nance	36	95	2.6	11	0
Grant	8	45	5.6	18	0
Flynn	9	26	2.9	12	0
Jennings	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
GREEN BAY	**421**	**1606**	**3.8**	**71**	**0**
OPPONENTS	**395**	**1838**	**4.7**	**40**	**0**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jennings	76	1265	16.6	86	12
Driver	51	565	11.1	61	4
Jones	50	679	13.6	66	5
Nelson	45	582	12.9	80	2
Jackson	53	342	8.0	37	1
Finley	21	301	14.3	34	1
Quarless	21	238	11.3	23	1
Kuhn	15	97	6.5	12	2
Lee	11	73	6.6	17	3
Swain	6	72	12.0	31	0
Crabtree	4	61	15.3	33	0
Nance	3	30	10.0	14	0
Johnson	3	26	8.7	11	0
Starks	2	15	7.5	12	0
Hall	1	9	9.0	9	0
GREEN BAY	**352**	**4355**	**12.4**	**86**	**31**
OPPONENTS	**296**	**3107**	**10.5**	**85**	**16**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Rodgers	475	312	3922	28	11
Flynn	66	40	433	3	2
GREEN BAY	**541**	**352**	**4355**	**31**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**527**	**296**	**3440**	**16**	**24**

SACKS GREEN BAY 47, OPPONENTS 38

Matthews 13.5, Jenkins 7, Raji 6.5, Zombo 4, Bishop 3, Walden 2, Woodson 2, Wynn 1.5, Chillar 1, Green 1, Neal 1, Pickett 1, Poppinga 1, Williams 1, Wilson 1, Hawk 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

The Packers are considered one of the best drafting teams, and this year was no different. Their first two picks were need-based, as **Derek Sherrod** was taken No. 32 overall to start at either right tackle or guard. **Randall Cobb** was chosen to compete as their slot receiver right away. He was arguably the most dynamic offensive weapon in this draft.

Round 3 brought **Alex Green**, who will vie for time at running back, while tight end **D.J. Williams** should also see the field this season. Cornerback **Davon House** was a reach in the fourth round, but his size and talent could make him a decent backup. There may be too much depth on the offensive line for **Caleb Schlauderaff** to make the team, but seventh-rounder **Lawrence Guy** could find a spot in the defensive end rotation.

Sherrod

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	32	Derek Sherrod	OT	6-5	321	Mississippi State
2	32	Randall Cobb	WR	5-10	191	Kentucky
3	32	Alex Green	RB	6-0	225	Hawaii
4	34	Davon House	CB	6-0	184	New Mexico State
5	10	D.J. Williams	TE	6-2	245	Arkansas
6	14	Caleb Schlauderaff	G	6-4	305	Utah
6	21	D.J. Smith	OLB	5-11	239	Appalachian State
6	32	Ricky Elmore	DE	6-4	255	Arizona
7	15	Ryan Taylor	TE	6-4	254	North Carolina
7	30	Lawrence Guy	DT	6-2	365	Arizona State

SHELBY DANIEL / ICON SMI

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10	Flynn, Matt	QB	6-2	225	6/20/85	4	LSU
6	Harrell, Graham	QB	6-2	215	5/22/85	1	Texas Tech
12	Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	12/2/83	7	California

OFFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Battles, Adrian	G	6-3	311	10/30/86	1	Minnesota State-Mankato
75	Bulaga, Bryan	T	6-5	314	3/21/89	2	Iowa
	Campbell, Chris	T	6-5	327	9/22/86	1	Eastern Illinois
76	Clifton, Chad	T	6-5	320	6/26/76	12	Tennessee
73	Colledge, Daryn	T	6-4	308	2/11/82	6	Boise State
62	Dietrich-Smith, Evan	G	6-2	308	7/19/86	2	Idaho State
61	Goode, Brett	C	6-1	255	11/2/84	4	Arkansas
70	Lang, T.J.	T	6-4	318	9/20/87	3	Eastern Michigan
67	McDonald, Nick	G	6-4	316	6/27/87	2	Grand Valley State
74	Newhouse, Marshall	G	6-4	319	9/29/88	2	TCU
	Schlauderaff, Caleb	G	6-4	305	11/7/87	0	Utah
	Sherrod, Derek	T	6-5	371	4/23/89	0	Mississippi State
71	Sitton, Josh	G	6-3	318	6/6/86	4	UCF
72	Spitz, Jason	C	6-3	305	12/19/82	6	Louisville
65	Tauscher, Mark	T	6-3	320	6/17/77	12	Wisconsin
63	Wells, Scott	C	6-2	300	1/7/81	8	Tennessee

RUNNING BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
25	Grant, Ryan	RB	6-1	222	12/9/82	5	Notre Dame
	Green, Alex	RB	6-0	225	11/30/89	0	Hawaii
32	Jackson, Brandon	RB	5-10	216	10/2/85	5	Nebraska
45	Johnson, Quinn	RB	6-1	263	9/30/86	3	LSU
30	Kuhn, John	RB	6-0	250	9/9/82	6	Shippensburg
23	Nance, Dimitri	RB	5-10	219	2/18/88	2	Arizona State
44	Starks, James	RB	6-2	218	2/25/86	2	Buffalo

RECEIVERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	191	8/22/90	0	Kentucky
83	Crabtree, Tom	TE	6-4	245	11/4/85	2	Miami (Ohio)
80	Driver, Donald	WR	6-0	194	2/2/75	13	Alcorn State
88	Finley, Jermichael	TE	6-5	247	3/26/87	4	Texas
85	Jennings, Greg	WR	5-11	198	9/21/83	6	Western Michigan
89	Jones, James	WR	6-1	208	3/31/84	5	San Jose State
87	Nelson, Jordy	WR	6-3	217	5/31/85	4	Kansas State
81	Quarless, Andrew	TE	6-4	252	10/6/88	2	Penn State
	Robinson, Antonio	WR	6-3	195	11/30/85	1	Nicholls State
16	Swain, Brett	WR	6-0	200	6/21/85	3	San Diego State
	Taylor, Ryan	TE	6-4	254	11/16/87	0	North Carolina
11	West, Chastin	WR	6-1	216	5/1/87	1	Fresno State
	Williams, D.J.	TE	6-2	245	9/10/88	0	Arkansas

DEFENSIVE LINE			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95	Green, Howard	DT	6-2	365	1/12/79	7	LSU
	Guy, Lawrence	DT	6-4	305	3/17/90	0	Arizona State
91	Harrell, Justin	DT	6-4	315	2/14/84	5	Tennessee
77	Jenkins, Cullen	DT	6-2	305	1/20/81	8	Central Michigan
97	Jolly, Johnny	DT	6-3	325	2/21/83	5	Texas A&M
96	Neal, Mike	DT	6-3	294	6/26/87	2	Purdue
79	Pickett, Ryan	DT	6-2	340	10/8/79	11	Ohio State
90	Raji, B.J.	DT	6-2	337	7/11/86	3	Boston College
	Ross, Jay	DT	6-3	302	10/3/87	1	East Carolina
93	Walden, Erik	DE	6-2	250	8/21/85	4	Middle Tennessee
98	Wilson, C.J.	DE	6-3	290	3/30/87	2	East Carolina
94	Wynn, Jarius	DE	6-3	285	8/29/86	3	Georgia
	Young, Curtis	DE	6-1	269	1/8/86	1	Cincinnati

DEFENSIVE BACKS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
	Bell, Josh	CB	5-11	177	1/8/85	4	Baylor
20	Bigby, Atari	S	5-11	213	9/19/81	6	UCF
42	Burnett, Morgan	S	6-1	209	1/13/89	2	Georgia Tech
24	Bush, Jarrett	CB	6-0	200	5/21/84	6	Utah State
36	Collins, Nick	S	5-11	207	8/16/83	7	Bethune-Cookman
40	Gordy, Josh	CB	5-11	195	7/9/87	1	Central Michigan
	Greco, Michael	S	6-3	217	2/26/87	1	UCF
	House, Davon	CB	6-0	184	7/10/89	0	New Mexico State
22	Lee, Pat	CB	6-0	196	2/20/84	4	Auburn
	Levine, Anthony	S	5-11	199	3/27/87	1	Tennessee State
26	Peprah, Charlie	S	5-11	203	2/24/83	6	Alabama
37	Shields, Sam	CB	5-11	184	12/8/87	2	Miami (Fla.)
27	Smith, Anthony	S	6-0	200	9/20/83	6	Syracuse
28	Underwood, Brandon	CB	6-1	191	6/24/86	3	Cincinnati
38	Williams, Tramon	CB	5-11	191	3/16/83	5	Louisiana Tech
21	Woodson, Charles	CB	6-1	202	10/7/76	14	Michigan

LINEBACKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
56	Barnett, Nick	LB	6-2	236	5/27/81	9	Oregon State
55	Bishop, Desmond	LB	6-2	238	7/24/84	5	California
47	Briggs, Diyral	LB	6-4	230	10/31/85	3	Bowling Green
54	Chillar, Brandon	LB	6-3	237	10/21/82	8	UCLA
	Elmore, Ricky	LB	6-4	255	2/1/88	0	Arizona
49	Francois, Rob	LB	6-2	255	5/14/85	2	Boston College
35	Hall, Korey	LB	6-0	236	8/5/83	5	Boise State
41	Havner, Spencer	LB	6-3	250	2/2/83	3	UCLA
50	Hawk, A.J.	LB	6-1	247	1/6/84	6	Ohio State
	Jackson, Cardia	LB	6-0	223	4/13/88	1	Louisiana-Monroe
59	Jones, Brad	LB	6-3	242	4/1/86	3	Colorado
52	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	255	5/14/86	3	USC
51	Poppinga, Brady	LB	6-3	250	9/21/79	7	BYU
	Smith, D.J.	LB	5-11	239	2/24/89	0	Appalachian State
57	Wilhelm, Matt	LB	6-2	245	2/2/81	9	Ohio State
58	Zombo, Frank	LB	6-3	254	3/5/87	2	Central Michigan

KICKERS			HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2	Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	9/3/84	5	Colorado
8	Masthay, Tim	P	6-1	200	3/16/87	2	Kentucky

MIKE McCARTHY, Head coach

Joe Philbin, offensive coordinator; **Dom Capers,** defensive coordinator; **Shawn Slocum,** special teams coordinator; **Winston Moss,** asst. head coach/inside linebackers; **Edgar Bennett,** wide receivers; **James Campen,** offensive line; **Tom Clements,** quarterbacks; **Jerry Fontenot,** running backs; **Ben McAdoo,** tight ends; **John Rushing,** asst. wide receivers/special teams; **Kevin Greene,** outside linebackers; **Darren Perry,** safeties; **Mike Trgovac,** defensive line; **Joe Whitt Jr.,** cornerbacks; **Chad Morton,** asst. special teams

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

TE Donald Lee (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE McCARTHY

McCarthy leans on the aggressive side because he wants his team to embrace that philosophy and play to win. He has been stubborn with trying to run it at the goal line and is a candidate to attempt an onside kick at any time. He loves to treat matchups the way an NBA coach would and is always looking for the ones that will win him games.

Bowl berth. Nick Collins was also a Pro Bowler in 2010, and has solid speed.

Pat Lee and Brandon Underwood haven't grown the way Green Bay's coaches had hoped and could be replaced if they don't improve. Fourth-round pick Davon House has the ability to play physical and will be in the mix for a position in the dime setup.

At safety, the coaches were high on Burnett and his knack for being around the ball before the 2010 third-round pick tore his ACL. They will give him every chance to win the starting spot over the reliable Charlie Peprah, whose play rose as the games became more important.

It's almost a certainty Atari Bigby will not return, leaving Jarrett Bush to be a swingman at corner and safety again. **GRADE: A-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The emphasis in 2011 will be on improving the return game after Green Bay ranked 26th in kick return average and 22nd in punt returns.

Enter Cobb, a multipurpose athlete who played receiver, quarterback, running back and returner at Kentucky. He will immediately move into the kick and punt return positions and be given every opportunity to win the jobs. Cobb isn't Devin Hester-dangerous, but he is shifty and can take advantage of good blocking.

Punter Tim Masthay rewarded the Packers for sticking with him with a terrific first season, and there's plenty of reason to think he'll get better with time. If free agent Mason Crosby, whose performance in the clutch last year left something to be desired, doesn't handle the kicking duties, then expect a veteran to come in. Long snapper Brett Goode rarely makes a mistake. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

There probably isn't a more talented team in the NFL than Green Bay, but as McCarthy has said before, talent doesn't always win championships. Recapturing the chemistry of this team will be difficult because expectations will be enormous, egos will be in launch mode and many players will be thinking about getting paid.

That's the poison McCarthy has to keep out of his locker room if he's going to have any chance of repeating as champion. Expect a division title at the least and, if all goes well, another Super Bowl trip.

95
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

2

NFC NORTH

SN PICK 8-8

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Matthew Stafford Shaun Hill
FB	Jerome Felton Maurice Morris
RB	Jahvid Best Mikel Leshoure
LT	Jeff Backus Jason Fox
LG	Rob Sims Donald Thomas
C	Dominic Raiola Dylan Gandy
RG	Stephen Peterman Dylan Gandy
RT	Gosder Cherilus Corey Hilliard
TE	Brandon Pettigrew Tony Scheffler
WR	Calvin Johnson Bryant Johnson
WR	Nate Burleson Titus Young
DEFENSE	
DE	Cliff Avril Lawrence Jackson
DT	Corey Williams Nick Fairley
DT	Ndamukong Suh Sammie Hill
DE	Kyle Vanden Bosch Turk McBride
SLB	Bobby Carpenter Ashlee Palmer
MLB	DeAndre Levy Landon Johnson
WLB	Ashlee Palmer Doug Hogue
LCB	Chris Houston Aaron Berry
SS	Erik Coleman Amari Spievey
FS	Louis Delmas John Wendling
RCB	Alphonso Smith Nathan Vasher
SPECIALISTS	
K	Jason Hanson
P	Nick Harris
KR	Stefan Logan
PR	Stefan Logan
LS	Don Muhlbach

Lions have weapons to make noise in North, but must stay healthy

By Tom Kowalski Booth Newspapers

The Lions are a dangerous team. That doesn't mean they're good, because good teams win with consistency. The Lions are dangerous because they can beat anybody—as they did in December against the Super Bowl champion Packers.

Detroit has a lot of elite weapons on offense with quarterback Matthew Stafford, wide receiver Calvin Johnson and running back Jahvid Best and can also dominate with its defensive line. Due to injuries, the Lions haven't put the package together yet, but this season could be a big leap in that direction. Still, the Lions need consistency to make a move in the competitive NFC North.

OFFENSE

Coordinator Scott Linehan likes diversity in his packages, and he enjoys using tight ends. Depending on the defense, the Lions can shift from a package with Brandon Pettigrew and Tony Scheffler to either a three-wide or four-wide set to create mismatches. With Stafford under center, the Lions will most likely throw to set up the run.

Quarterbacks ▸ Stafford played in just three games last year, winning the only contest he started and finished. The Lions had the lead in the other two games when Stafford was forced to the sideline with injuries, but those turned into gruesome losses without their star under center. Coach Jim Schwartz doesn't think that's a coincidence, which is why he proclaims that "great things" are in store for Stafford and the Lions.

However, Stafford must stay healthy. Due to a knee injury and injuries to both shoulders, Stafford has played just 13 games in his first two seasons, but all indications are that his right throwing shoulder will be as sharp as ever when training camp opens. Stafford's potential is off the charts because of his knowledge of the offense along with his toughness, leadership and knack for making the big play. Even in his limited appearances last year, he showed improvement in avoiding turnovers.

Shaun Hill is a capable backup with a good arm and a lot of moxie. Hill has proven he can win some games. Drew Stanton, who improved by leaps and bounds last year, appears to be solidified at the No. 3 spot (provided he is re-signed). **GRADE: B+**

Running backs ▸ Best scored five touchdowns in his first two NFL games and then turf toe injuries to both feet crippled his production the rest of the season. While Stafford's injury was more newsworthy because of his position, the loss of Best's game-breaking ability turned the offense into a one-dimensional attack.

In addition to having great speed to hit

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

DE CLIFF AVRIL

Avril had 8.5 sacks last year but didn't get much attention because of Ndamukong Suh's emergence and Kyle Vanden Bosch's leadership. Look for Avril to come close to doubling his sack total and remain among the league leaders for most of the season.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 4-4

- **ONLINE:** www.detroitlions.com
- **STADIUM:** Ford Field

Capacity: 65,000 **Turf:** Artificial

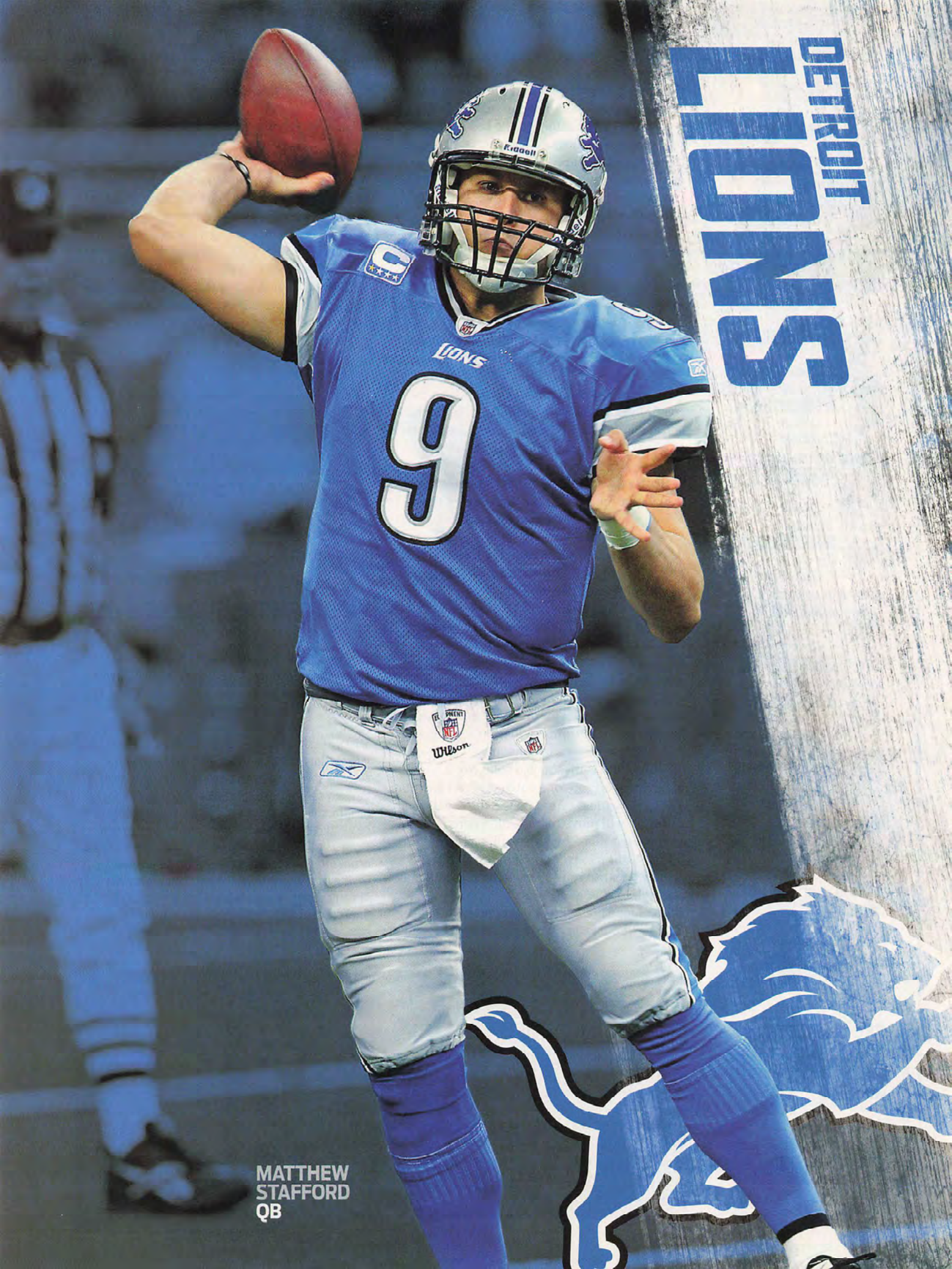
Tickets: 313-262-2006

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Detroit Lions Headquarters and Training Facility, Allen Park, Mich.; 313-216-4600

LIONS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Dick LeBeau (1959-72)	62	2	Lem Barney (1967-77)	56	3	Yale Lary (1952-53, 1956-64)	50

CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: AL PEREIRA / GETTY IMAGES


DETROIT
LIONS
LIONS
9
MATTHEW
STAFFORD
QB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ TAMPA BAY	SEPT. 11 1:00	W L
WEEK 2	KANSAS CITY	SEPT. 18 1:00	W L
WEEK 3	@ MINNESOTA	SEPT. 25 1:00	W L
WEEK 4	@ DALLAS	OCT. 2 1:00	W L
WEEK 5	CHICAGO	OCT. 10 8:30	W L
WEEK 6	SAN FRANCISCO	OCT. 16 1:00	W L
WEEK 7	ATLANTA	OCT. 23 1:00	W L
WEEK 8	@ DENVER	OCT. 30 4:05	W L
WEEK 9	OPEN		
WEEK 10	@ CHICAGO	NOV. 13 1:00	W L
WEEK 11	CAROLINA	NOV. 20 1:00	W L
WEEK 12	GREEN BAY	NOV. 24 12:30	W L
WEEK 13	@ NEW ORLEANS	DEC. 4 1:00	W L
WEEK 14	MINNESOTA	DEC. 11 1:00	W L
WEEK 15	@ OAKLAND	DEC. 18 4:05	W L
WEEK 16	SAN DIEGO	DEC. 24 4:05	W L
WEEK 17	@ GREEN BAY	JAN. 1 1:00	W L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

the corner, Best is also a good runner between the tackles. He's not going to be a 25-carry workhorse every game, but he has excellent vision, cutting ability and acceleration to get through small holes on the interior. Best is also dangerous as a receiver on short routes, but needs to improve his ability to locate the ball on deeper patterns.

To make sure injury doesn't deflate the run game again, the Lions traded up to draft Illinois' Mikel Leshoure in the second round. Leshoure will be a solid change-of-pace player to Best and will also supply the bulk in short-yardage and goal-line situations. The two players will compete for carries and it's likely the Lions will roll with the hot hand on Sundays.

Maurice Morris should keep a spot on the roster because of his versatility while fullback Jerome Felton, when coupled with Leshoure, will look to add some thump in the short-yardage attack. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ The fact that the Lions spent a second-round draft pick on receiver Titus Young tells you how valuable that third receiver is in a three-wide set.

For the last several years, the Lions could never force coverage away from Johnson but now believe they can, as Young's speed and game-breaking ability will force defenses to account for him. The reason the Lions made the big investment in Young is because they needed a legit threat, not just a speedy guy who could make an occasional play.

Young should get a lot of opportunities early because teams won't assume he's good—he'll have to prove it. Until he does so, coverages will continue to swarm Johnson.

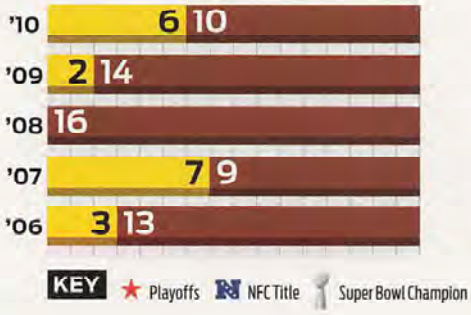
While Nate Burleson is a solid No. 2 receiver, he's more of a catch-and-run guy than a deep downfield threat. In the three-wide sets, Burleson will move to the slot, where he's the most dangerous. The Lions will be looking to fill the No. 4 receiver position through free agency because return specialist Stefan Logan is a lock for the No. 5 spot.

The Lions are solid at tight end with Pettigrew, who has an excellent blend of blocking and receiving skills. Scheffler is a solid receiving tight end, while Will Heller adds the muscle when Detroit wants to run out of the two-tight-end package. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸ While the Lions are good at protecting the quarterback (they tied for sixth in the league in sacks allowed with 27), this unit still needs to be more consistent in all phases. The line is helped when Stafford is able to get rid of the ball quickly, but the quarterbacks still take too many hits.

Detroit also needs to be stronger on running plays, an area that has no continuity. Part of that is due to injured running backs, but there are also

5-YEAR RECORD: 18-62



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Lions)

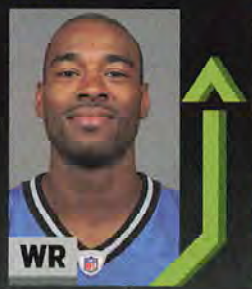
"The quarterback (Matthew Stafford) is the key to everything for them. They've got a lot of other nice pieces in place, but there are also a lot of concerns. Can the offensive line hold up ... their linebackers are thin ... and they need to stop somebody in the secondary. That's a big issue. But if that quarterback stays healthy, it fixes a lot of other problems. The kid looks like he could be special, but we haven't seen enough of him to be really sure he can do it consistently. If Stafford stays healthy, they give you a lot of matchup problems, but if he's sitting on the bench, there's not as much to fear. ...

"It's all about defending the field and, with Stafford—or any other strong-armed quarterback—you have to cover everything. You can't cheat; there are no shortcuts. The smart ones find those shortcuts real fast and Stafford appears smart enough. Bottom line: He plays, they're pretty good; if he doesn't, below average."

FANTASY SPIN

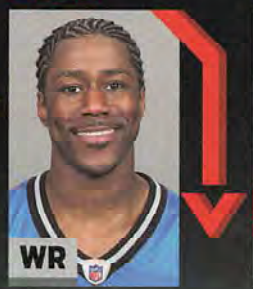
The Lions are a legit fantasy defense. Don't laugh. Defensive Rookie of the Year Ndamukong Suh racked up 10 sacks in 2010, and first-round pick Nick Fairley should add to that total.

BUY



Calvin Johnson

SELL



Nate Burleson

SLEEPER

Mikel Leshoure

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

THE BOOK ON ...

NDAMUKONG SUH

"Ndamukong Suh is really something special, and he's going to get even better. He plays with great power and leverage, and he'll learn to be more steady play after play. He doesn't take plays off, but he goes so hard that he has a tendency to get gassed. There's always a fine line between pacing yourself without losing that intensity and aggressiveness, and I don't see that being a problem for him. ...

"In the pass rush, he gets lost sometimes and takes himself right out of plays but, even though he's very mature, you can't forget how young he is. He's going to figure this out. There are only a few (guards) in the league who can handle his power and agility in (a one-on-one matchup). And, probably the most important thing is that you can see it really matters to him. He wants to be the best and he won't settle."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	338.9	17
Rushing	100.8	23
Passing	238.1	12
Scoring	362	15
Punt Returns	12.1	5t
Kick Returns	24.9	4
Red Zone TD %	64.4	2
Total Defense	343.6	21
Against Rush	124.9	24
Against Pass	218.6	16
Points Allowed	369	19
Interceptions	14	19t
Sacks	44	6
Turnover Diff.	4	11t

too many mental breakdowns on the line.

Left tackle Jeff Backus is playing well as he enters the twilight of his career, but there are concerns at right tackle, where Gosder Cherilus is coming off microfracture knee surgery. Detroit is tough and solid at guard with Rob Sims and Stephen Peterman, and what center Dominic Raiola lacks in physical power, he makes up for with smarts and agility. The depth at tackle is decent, but the Lions need quality backups on the interior. **GRADE: C+**

DEFENSE

Coordinator Gunther Cunningham loves to get things started with a pass rush by using the front four. Once that's established, he then likes to mix in blitzes to force big plays.

Cunningham knows he has to get immediate pressure because there are weaknesses in the back seven that can be exposed and manipulated. While the Lions have improved against the run, they must get stronger on the edge, and that won't improve until they settle the situation at outside linebacker.

Defensive line ▸ This is an explosive group that will continue to improve. Tackle Ndamukong Suh is coming off a Pro Bowl rookie season, and the Lions will move him around to get the best matchups. Left end Cliff Avril has a chance to blossom into one of the league's top pass rushers because he's likely to see a lot of one-on-one matchups.

With Suh, Corey Williams and 2011 first-round pick Nick Fairley manning the inside

MICHAEL DEHOOG / GETTY IMAGES

and Kyle Vanden Bosch getting constant pressure from the right side, Avril has the speed to beat almost anyone around the edge. He must continue adding counter moves to become an elite player, however. The Lions are decent against the run but some of their deficiencies are highlighted because of a weak linebacking corps. They're still consistent at this position, but that's because there's no depth.

Along with Fairley, who will be a regular part of the rotation, Sammie Hill is an emerging talent at tackle but also still learning the position, while Turk McBride and Lawrence Jackson are solid pass rushers. **GRADE: A**

Linebackers ▸ The Lions have vacancies at both outside linebacker positions. DeAndre Levy, entering his third year, is solid in the middle and does a good job of stopping the run, dropping into coverage and making the right calls in quarterbacking the defense.

On the outside, though, the Lions are severely challenged. Detroit didn't find a starting quality player in the draft so they'll keep looking throughout the offseason while culling the other starter from the competition between Bobby Carpenter and Ashlee Palmer. Both players looked good at the end of the season after enduring some problems earlier in the year.

Carpenter is the most likely to emerge, but still has a lot to prove in terms of consistency. The Lions' downhill defensive style is expected to suit his game, as opposed to the read-and-react system he's played in the past. The Lions need to stock up on depth here while also weeding out players from the previous regime. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸ While there is potential in the Lions' secondary, nothing is settled in terms of starters. Safety Louis Delmas

DRAFT REPORT

For Detroit, Christmas came early this year, as the top prospect on several draft boards slipped all the way to No. 13. The Lions couldn't resist taking defensive tackle **Nick Fairley** to team with Ndamukong Suh and become the envy of all 4-3 systems. Detroit then traded up to grab running back **Mikel Leshoure** in the second round.

Titus Young, another second-rounder, will fill the hole as the Lions' third receiver and gives them some return value on special teams. Linebacker **Douglas Hogue** is a potential starter, while **Johnny Culbreath** could develop into a solid rotation tackle, though not for a few years.

Fairley

A B C D F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	13	Nick Fairley	DT	6-3	291	Auburn
2	12	Titus Young	WR	5-11	174	Boise State
2	25	Mikel Leshoure	RB	6-0	227	Illinois
5	26	Doug Hogue	OLB	6-2	235	Syracuse
7	6	Johnny Culbreath	OT	6-5	322	South Carolina State

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	14-19	Chicago Bears
09/19	L	32-35	Philadelphia Eagles
09/26	L	10-24	Minnesota Vikings
10/03	L	26-28	Green Bay Packers
10/10	W	44-6	St. Louis Rams
10/17	L	20-28	New York Giants
10/31	W	37-25	Washington Redskins
11/07	L	20-23	New York Jets
11/14	L	12-14	Buffalo Bills
11/21	L	19-35	Dallas Cowboys
11/25	L	24-45	New England Patriots
12/05	L	20-24	Chicago Bears
12/12	W	7-3	Green Bay Packers
12/19	W	23-30	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/26	W	34-27	Miami Dolphins
01/02	W	20-13	Minnesota Vikings

WON 6, LOST 10

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Best	171	555	3.2	45	4
Morris	90	336	3.7	26	5
Smith	34	133	3.9	15	0
Hill	22	123	5.6	40	0
Stanton	18	113	6.3	20	1
Logan	15	95	6.3	21	0
Burleson	7	81	11.6	25	0
Felton	22	76	3.5	9	0
Brown	17	58	3.4	9	0
C. Johnson	4	32	8.0	15	0
Stafford	4	11	2.8	9	1
DETROIT	**404**	**1613**	**4.0**	**45**	**11**
OPPONENTS	**443**	**1999**	**4.5**	**80**	**18**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
C. Johnson	77	1120	14.5	87	12
Pettigrew	71	722	10.2	35	4
Best	58	487	8.4	75	2
Burleson	55	625	11.4	58	6
Scheffler	45	378	8.4	25	1
Morris	25	170	6.8	16	0
B. Johnson	18	210	11.7	24	0
Smith	11	123	11.2	27	0
Felton	8	54	6.8	19	0
Brown	8	45	5.6	10	0
Heller	4	37	9.3	13	1
Williams	3	30	10.0	17	0
DETROIT	**383**	**4001**	**10.4**	**87**	**26**
OPPONENTS	**330**	**3498**	**10.6**	**89**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Hill	416	257	2686	16	12
Stanton	119	69	780	4	3
Stafford	96	57	535	6	1
Best	1	0	0	0	0
Logan	1	0	0	0	0
DETROIT	**633**	**383**	**4001**	**26**	**16**
OPPONENTS	**518**	**330**	**3786**	**23**	**14**

SACKS DETROIT 43, OPPONENTS 27

Suh 10.0, Avril 8.5, Jackson 6, McBride 5, Vanden Bosch 4, Hill 2.5, Delmas 2, Williams 2, Fluellen 1, Palmer 1, Peterson 1

CHRIS TROTMAN / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
14 Hill, Shaun	QB	6-3	220	1/9/80	10	Maryland
16 Robinson, Zac	QB	6-2	214	9/29/86	2	Oklahoma State
9 Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-2	232	2/7/88	3	Georgia
5 Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	230	5/7/84	5	Michigan State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
76 Backus, Jeff	T	6-5	305	9/21/77	11	Michigan
77 Cherilus, Gosder	T	6-7	325	6/28/84	4	Boston College
Culbreath, Johnny	T	6-5	327	5/18/88	0	South Carolina State
70 Fox, Jason	T	6-7	303	5/2/88	2	Miami (Fla.)
65 Gandy, Dylan	G	6-3	295	3/8/82	6	Texas Tech
64 Gerberry, Dan	C	6-3	302	11/10/85	1	Ball State
78 Hilliard, Corey	T	6-6	300	4/26/85	5	Oklahoma State
48 Muhlbach, Don	C	6-4	265	8/17/81	8	Texas A&M
66 Peterman, Stephen	G	6-4	323	1/11/82	7	LSU
51 Raiola, Dominic	C	6-1	295	12/30/78	11	Nebraska
67 Sims, Rob	G	6-3	312	12/6/83	6	Ohio State
74 Thomas, Donald	G	6-4	310	9/25/85	4	Connecticut
72 Ugoh, Tony	G	6-5	301	11/17/83	5	Arkansas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
44 Best, Jahvid	RB	5-10	199	1/30/89	2	California
21 Brown, Aaron	RB	6-1	205	10/10/85	3	TCU
Clapp, Matt	RB	6-2	246	12/6/86	1	Oklahoma
45 Felton, Jerome	RB	6-0	246	7/3/86	4	Furman
Johnson, Ian	RB	5-11	212	10/10/86	1	Boise State
Leshoure, Mikel	RB	6-0	227	3/30/90	0	Illinois
11 Logan, Stefan	RB	5-6	180	6/2/81	3	South Dakota
28 Morris, Maurice	RB	5-11	216	12/1/79	10	Oregon
34 Smith, Kevin	RB	6-1	217	12/17/86	4	Central Florida

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
13 Burleson, Nate	WR	6-0	198	8/19/81	9	Nevada
87 Clark, Brian	WR	6-2	204	12/26/83	4	N.C. State
46 Dickson, Richard	TE	6-2	245	11/17/87	2	LSU
Finley, J.J.	TE	6-6	251	1/30/85	1	Oklahoma
89 Heller, Will	TE	6-6	275	2/28/81	10	Georgia Tech
80 Johnson, Bryant	WR	6-3	215	3/7/81	9	Penn State
81 Johnson, Calvin	WR	6-5	236	9/25/85	5	Georgia Tech
17 Moore, Michael	WR	6-2	210	4/6/86	1	Georgia
47 Nordin, Jake	TE	6-3	262	7/8/84	4	Northern Illinois
84 Pettigrew, Brandon	TE	6-5	265	2/23/85	3	Oklahoma State
85 Scheffler, Tony	TE	6-5	255	2/15/83	6	Western Michigan
Toone, Tim	WR	5-10	185	2/14/85	1	Weber State
12 Williams, Derrick	WR	5-11	197	7/6/86	3	Penn State
Young, Titus	WR	5-11	174	8/21/89	0	Boise State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Avril, Cliff	DE	6-3	260	4/8/86	4	Purdue
61 Callaway, Rob	DT	6-5	310	2/14/88	1	Saginaw Valley State
95 DeVries, Jared	DE	6-4	275	6/11/76	13	Iowa
Fairley, Nick	DT	6-3	291	1/23/88	0	Auburn
96 Fluellen, Andre	DT	6-2	302	3/7/85	4	Florida State
91 Hill, Sammie Lee	DT	6-4	329	11/8/86	3	Stillman
94 Jackson, Lawrence	DE	6-4	271	8/30/85	4	USC
75 McBride, Turk	DE	6-2	278	5/30/85	5	Tennessee
90 Suh, Ndamukong	DT	6-4	307	1/6/87	2	Nebraska
62 Turner, Barry	DE	6-3	265	1/7/87	2	Nebraska
93 Vanden Bosch, Kyle	DE	6-4	278	11/17/78	11	Nebraska
99 Williams, Corey	DT	6-4	320	8/17/80	8	Arkansas State
79 Young, Willie	DE	6-5	251	9/19/85	2	N.C. State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Berry, Aaron	CB	5-11	180	6/25/88	2	Pittsburgh
39 Brown, C.C.	S	6-0	208	1/27/83	7	Louisiana-Lafayette
Coleman, Erik	S	5-10	207	5/6/82	8	Washington State
26 Delmas, Louis	S	5-11	202	4/12/87	3	Western Michigan
24 Hill, Tye	CB	5-10	185	6/3/82	5	Clemson
23 Houston, Chris	CB	5-11	178	10/18/84	5	Arkansas
33 McDonald, Brandon	CB	5-10	185	8/26/85	5	Memphis
38 Miller, Prince	CB	5-9	198	1/14/88	2	Georgia
25 Phillips, Randy	S	6-1	210	9/14/86	1	Miami (Fla.)
36 Pratt, Paul	CB	5-10	185	5/1/85	1	Nevada
27 Smith, Alphonso	CB	5-9	190	10/20/85	3	Wake Forest
42 Spievey, Amari	S	5-11	195	4/15/88	2	Iowa
30 Vasher, Nathan	CB	5-11	185	11/17/81	8	Texas
29 Wendling, John	S	6-1	222	6/4/83	5	Wyoming
31 Williams, Jack	CB	5-9	183	3/27/85	4	Kent State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Bosworth, Korey	LB	6-1	242	11/21/86	2	UCLA
53 Campbell, Caleb	LB	6-2	237	6/19/86	1	Army
59 Carpenter, Bobby	LB	6-2	249	8/1/83	6	Ohio State
52 Ciurciu, Vinny	LB	6-0	240	5/2/80	9	Boston College
57 Dizon, Jordon	LB	6-0	232	1/16/86	4	Colorado
50 Ekejiuba, Isaiah	LB	6-4	240	10/5/81	7	Virginia
49 Follett, Zack	LB	6-1	236	7/3/87	3	California
Hogue, Doug	LB	6-2	235	2/1/89	0	Syracuse
55 Johnson, Landon	LB	6-2	232	3/13/81	8	Purdue
54 Levy, DeAndre	LB	6-1	238	3/26/87	3	Wisconsin
58 Palmer, Ashlee	LB	6-1	236	4/7/86	3	Ole Miss

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Hanson, Jason	K	6-0	190	6/17/70	20	Washington State
2 Harris, Nick	P	6-2	218	7/23/78	11	California
3 Rayner, Dave	K	6-2	215	10/26/82	5	Michigan State

JIM SCHWARTZ, Head coach

Scott Linehan, offensive coordinator; **Gunther Cunningham**, defensive coordinator; **Danny Crossman**, special teams coordinator; **Matt Burke**, linebackers; **Kris Kocurek**, defensive line; **Tim Walton**, secondary; **Todd Downing**, asst. quarterbacks; **Sam Gash**, running backs; **Shawn Jefferson**, wide receivers; **Tim Lappano**, tight ends; **George Yarno**, offensive line; **Jeremiah Washburn**, asst. offensive line; **Bradford Banta**, asst. special teams

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

S Erik Coleman (FA/Falcons)

SUBTRACTIONS

CB Eric King (FA).

LB Julian Peterson (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JIM SCHWARTZ

It's still too early to get a read on Schwartz, who studies all the numbers, trends and odds and likes to play the percentages. However, as he develops trust in his players, Schwartz might be more apt to close the book, go with his instincts and take a few more chances.

is coming off a season in which he was slowed by a groin injury that reduced his playmaking ability. The Lions are still waiting for him to become the player he's shown in brief glimpses.

Detroit picked up free agent Erik Coleman before the lockout, and he'll likely start over second-year player Amari Spievey, who moved from cornerback late in training camp last year. Spievey has some talent, but he's not comfortable yet in his new position. The Lions could keep four safeties because John Wendling is a strong special teams player and key backup.

At cornerback, Chris Houston had a strong 2010 campaign but the Lions weren't convinced and didn't offer him a long-term deal. While his status remains unclear, Detroit also has a vacancy at the other spot. The team has some young players such as Alphonso Smith and Aaron Berry who might develop down the road, but the Lions will keep looking for help that can strengthen such a weak spot. Veteran Nathan Vasher has potential to step up after taking the right steps to get his career back on track. **GRADE: D+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

For the first time in 20 years, the Lions will have a kicking competition, as veteran Jason Hanson will face a challenge from David Rayner. Hanson is the more talented of the two, but he's entering his 20th season and has been battling injury issues the last two years. One of those injuries allowed Rayner, a restricted free agent, to show that he can handle game-winning kicks.

The Lions are solid at punter with Nick Harris and at long snapper with Don Muhlbach, but their biggest steal came after claiming Logan from Pittsburgh to be the return man. Logan has been dynamite, not only on kickoff and punt returns, but on the coverage teams as well. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

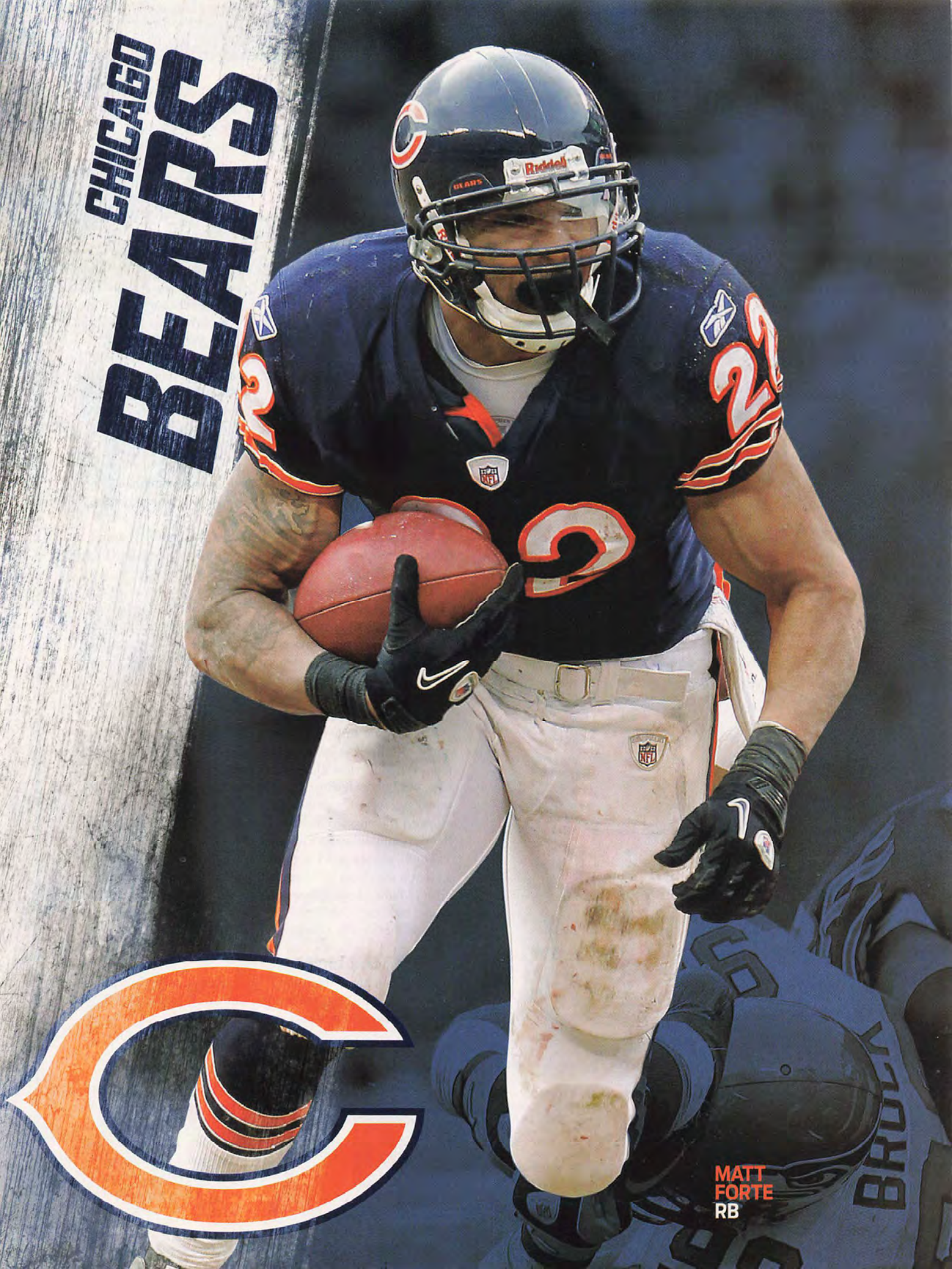
The Lions have made some huge strides in the last couple of seasons. And while that improvement is evident on the roster, it isn't as apparent in the win-loss record. Until they shore up the back seven, the Lions will always be vulnerable to late rallies.

Yes, Detroit won four games to close out last season, but the team must start hot and stay in the chase in 2011. If the Lions stay healthy, they can do that. However, at this point in their development, there isn't a lot of margin for error.

81
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

CHICAGO BEARS



Can Cutler shake off last season's doubters and bring Bears to glory?

By Gene Chamberlain correspondent

One deflating leftover from a 2010 run to the NFC championship game still lurks in the background, ready to take down the Chicago Bears in 2011.

The Jay Cutler knee sprain will be there all season.

Yes, the knee injury healed, and the Bears swept any scars from the incident into the past and trudged undaunted into 2011.

However, when a team's offensive star leaves an elimination game under circumstances peculiar enough to stir league-wide ridicule, it's possible that doubt will creep into his teammates' thoughts.

"We finished off this past year on a sour note with the loss," coach Lovie Smith says. "But again, there's so much excitement and we know we have things in place to win it all."

However, there may be rapid decline because of an offensive line that allowed a league-high 56 sacks last season, a retooled defensive line and the potential for teammates to question the quarterback's leadership in pressure situations.

OFFENSE

It's uncertain whether the Bears ever truly picked up the offensive system of coordinator Mike Martz in 2010. Poor pass protection made him scale back his vertical passing game so much that it resembled the West Coast offense at times.

Personnel still isn't in place for the offense to become "The Greatest Show on Soldier Field's Bad Turf." Whether Martz can continue to keep his true gambling nature under wraps, as he did in the second half of 2010, will remain a point of interest all season.

Quarterbacks ▸ For the first time since 2007, Cutler will get to play under the same offensive coordinator in successive seasons. Therefore, expect his understanding of Martz's system to produce better decisions. Cutler improved his decision making last year, compared to when he worked under former coordinator Ron Turner.

Cutler's passing mechanics broke down often under the pressure of 52 sacks, but this was never his strong point. Improving in this area will be one of the major challenges he faces in 2011.

More than decision making or textbook technique, the Bears need to see leadership under adversity from Cutler. In the final two matchups against Green Bay and the loss at the Jets last year, Cutler responded to pressure situations by either throwing interceptions or leaving the game with an injury. Cutler will need to raise his level of play to heights expected when he was acquired from Denver.

Caleb Hanie finally got a chance to show he can be a legitimate backup during the conference title game, and performed better than Cutler did in that contest. He's earned some of Martz's confidence and

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 11-5 HOME: 5-3

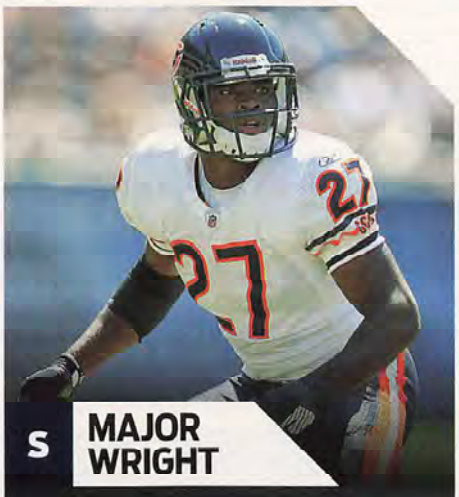
- **ONLINE:** www.chicagobears.com
- **STADIUM:** Soldier Field

Capacity: 61,500 **Turf:** Grass

Tickets: 847-615-2327

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Ill.; 815-928-5821

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



S MAJOR WRIGHT

Expect huge strides this year from Wright. In 2010, he showed a knack for getting into a hole and making plays in the backfield or covering ground against the pass. But he lacked proper preparation due to injuries and, as a result, had little confidence and didn't trust his instincts.

BEARS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Gary Fencik *(1976-87)*	38	2	Richie Petitbon *(1959-68)*	37	3	Donnell Woolford *(1989-96)*	32

NFC NORTH

SN PICK 8-8

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Jay Cutler Caleb Hanie
FB	Brandon Manumaleuna Kellen Davis
RB	Matt Forte Chester Taylor
LT	Gabe Carimi Frank Omiyale
LG	Chris Williams Frank Omiyale
C	Olin Kreutz Roberto Garza
RG	Roberto Garza Edwin Williams
RT	J'Marcus Webb Frank Omiyale
TE	Greg Olsen Kellen Davis
WR	Johnny Knox Earl Bennett
WR	Devin Hester Rashied Davis
	DEFENSE
DE	Julius Peppers Corey Wootton
DT	Matt Toeaina Stephen Paea
DT	Anthony Adams Marcus Harrison
DE	Israel Idonije Henry Melton
SLB	Pisa Tinoisamoa Nick Roach
MLB	Brian Urlacher Rod Wilson
WLB	Lance Briggs Brian Iwuh
LCB	Tim Jennings Zack Bowman
SS	Danieal Manning Major Wright
FS	Chris Harris Chris Conte
RCB	Charles Tillman D.J. Moore
	SPECIALISTS
K	Robbie Gould
P	Brad Maynard
KR	Devin Hester
PR	Devin Hester
LS	Patrick Mannelly

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE PAGE: JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	ATLANTA	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ NEW ORLEANS	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	GREEN BAY	SEPT. 25	4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	CAROLINA	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	@ DETROIT	OCT. 10	8:30	W / L
WEEK 6	MINNESOTA	OCT. 16	8:20	W / L
WEEK 7	TAMPA BAY*	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	OPEN			
WEEK 9	@ PHILADELPHIA	NOV. 7	8:30	W / L
WEEK 10	DETROIT	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	SAN DIEGO	NOV. 20	4:15	W / L
WEEK 12	@ OAKLAND	NOV. 27	4:05	W / L
WEEK 13	KANSAS CITY	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ DENVER	DEC. 11	4:05	W / L
WEEK 15	SEATTLE	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	@ GREEN BAY	DEC. 25	8:20	W / L
WEEK 17	@ MINNESOTA	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

*in London

will now be entrusted with the No. 2 QB spot.

GRADE: B-

Running backs ▸ Matt Forte bounced back from an injury-plagued second season and found the new offense suited his abilities as a pass receiver. He became the only back in franchise history besides Walter Payton to gain at least 1,000 rushing and 500 receiving yards in a season.

Forte's explosiveness in this offense makes him a big-play back in the Marshall Faulk mold, although on a lesser scale. He has been best used on the outside or in isolation situations. However, Forte is too slow to pick holes when running inside and was replaced by Chester Taylor in short yardage and goal-line situations last year.

Taylor may not be the team's exclusive short-yardage back in 2011. Harvey Unga, a 2010 supplemental draft pick from BYU, spent his rookie year on injured reserve but is now healthy and runs with power. The hope is he'll push Taylor, who recorded the lowest yards-per-carry average (2.4) of his career last season.

Because of Unga's inexperience and Taylor's low production as a 31-year-old, depth behind Forte is the biggest question at this position. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ Attempts to make Devin Hester a No. 1 wide receiver failed last year, and the company fallback has been to emphasize multiple wideouts.

It was assumed Martz could not find use for tight end Greg Olsen in his offense, but the Miami (Fla.) product improved his blocking and was able to put up solid numbers. Receiver Johnny Knox has developed into a deep threat after earning 960 yards and 18.8 yards a catch last year, while Earl Bennett became a dependable third-down threat.

Overall, the receiver corps must become more adept at beating press coverage. The need exists for a bigger wideout to step up, like Cutler had in Denver with Brandon Marshall. **GRADE: C**

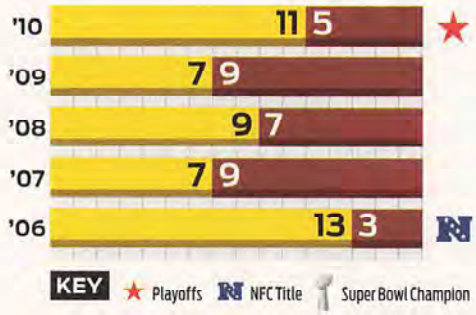
Offensive line ▸ Last year, offensive line coach Mike Tice may have mastered the culinary art of making lemonade from lemons. He threw together a group of spare parts and produced a line just good enough to help reach a conference title game. Then Jay Cutler was injured—again.

Center Olin Kreutz appears to have a year or two left, guard Roberto Garza has been one of the NFL's more efficient run blockers the last three seasons and some scouts regard right tackle J'Marcus Webb as the steal of the 2010 draft. The seventh-rounder still needs seasoning, however.

This leaves 2011 first-round pick Gabe Carimi to mix in with either tackle Frank Omiyale or 2008 first-round draft pick Chris Williams.

Playing guard doesn't suit Williams because he

5-YEAR RECORD: 47-33



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Bears)

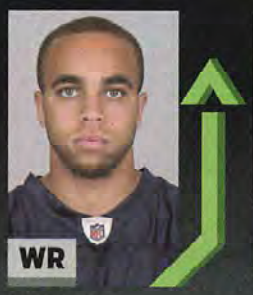
"Their offensive line needed an overhaul more than most people realized. (Line coach) Mike Tice was trying to get plays blocked with players—yeah, some of them were older, like (Olin) Kreutz—but they aren't suited for (offensive coordinator Mike) Martz's system. Most are guys better for the West Coast style: movement guys, quickness and technique. They haven't been able to beat teams at the point of attack physically with their running game for a long time. They resorted to some deception and got (Matt) Forte on the edge in gimmick plays, but really have trouble blocking the run. ...

"On defense, you know what you're getting, and that's the problem. I don't think it's going to change. They run their cover 2. They might disguise it, but they've basically got to do it all with athletic ability. Their coverage guys are using the outside shoulder leverage to funnel receivers into the middle where there's help. You know all of this going in, right away. That's why you see some teams hurting their defense early in games with the prearranged plays."

FANTASY SPIN

Fewer carries meant better results for Matt Forte last year. Point-per-reception league owners know Forte ranks second among running backs with 171 receptions since 2008.

BUY



WR

Johnny Knox

SELL

QB

Jay Cutler

SLEEPER

D/ST

Defense/special teams

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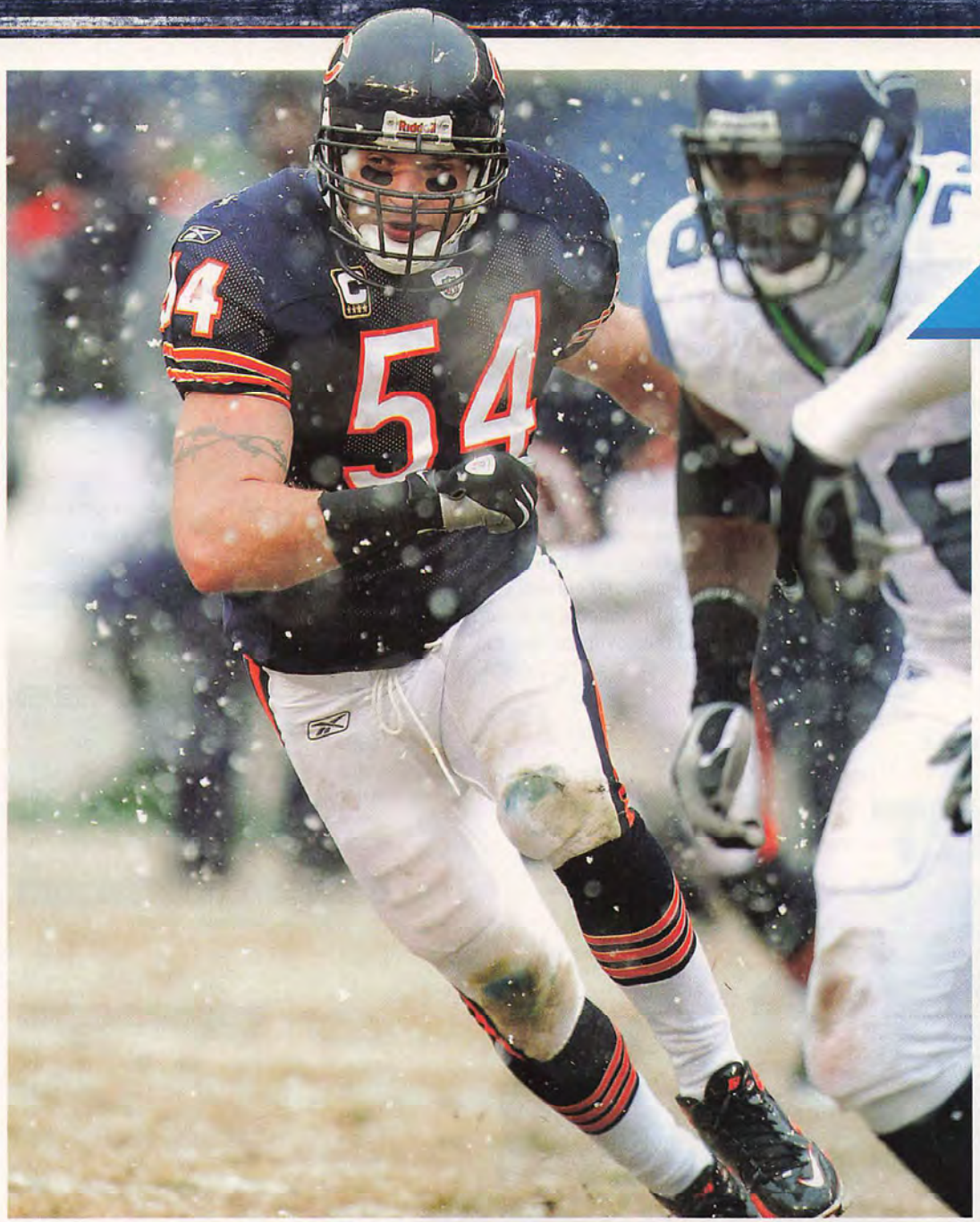


SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

BRIAN URLACHER

"Urlacher still gets back in coverage and goes sideline to sideline faster than most other linebackers. You won't see a huge drop in skills if you're looking for that. But I notice subtle things, like pursuit angles on running plays. Runners got by him more when it looked like he had the wrong angle. What it really was, I think, is he never was great taking the correct angles, but was so fast he made the play anyway. ...

"He has slowed down a tiny bit and needs to have better angles or he's just not going to get there. Another thing noticeable was (a) team's intent on mixing up (its) pass routes in the middle of the field, (getting) past him downfield in coverage with more success. I think more teams will challenge him this way from now on. They picked at him underneath, then got him cheating up, then beat him deeper in the seam when he was hesitating to get back."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	289.4	30
Rushing	101.0	22
Passing	188.4	28
Scoring	334	21
PUNT RETURNS	**17.1**	**1**
Kick Returns	25.4	2
Red Zone TD %	45.1	26
Total Defense	314.3	9
Against Rush	90.1	2
Against Pass	224.9	20
Points Allowed	286	4
Interceptions	21	5t
Sacks	34	17
Turnover Diff.	4	11t

lacks the wide base required for the spot. Most likely, Webb will be tested on the left side after Omiyale got beat by pass rushers at left tackle a year ago. Carimi played left tackle his entire college career and it would be surprising if Webb or any of the others force him to right tackle or guard. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

Under coordinator Rod Marinelli, the Bears clung to their traditional cover 2 scheme while showing a few new wrinkles. They blitzed more effectively, but most of their success could be credited to defensive end Julius Peppers' presence in the pass rush. Chicago's defensive unit remains an open book in terms of strategy, with success hinging on the athletic abilities of an aging nucleus.

Defensive line > Despite recording just eight sacks last season, Peppers' addition lifted the defense to an elite level. He made it possible for defensive end Israel Idonije to make eight sacks on the other side. However, Peppers had to play almost 90 percent of the defense's snaps and Idonije 80 percent for a defense that used to rely heavily on a defensive end rotation. The need exists for Corey Wootton or someone else to produce in relief roles.

The decision to let defensive tackle Tommie Harris go was smart. It's never good to have a player with an $11.5 million cap value who totaled just 1.5 sacks for the year. The Bears think they got a gem at tackle with 2011 second-round draft pick Stephen Paea, who has great

explosiveness and strength, while Matt Toeaina continues to provide steady play.

Anthony Adams has been a rock, but fourth-year player Marcus Harrison faces a make-or-break year after teasing with potential, then following that with periods of inactivity. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers > In the NFC championship game buildup, linebacker Lance Briggs responded to queries about an aging defense by saying, "I'm 30. I'm not dead." Briggs and Brian Urlacher have shown no sign of slowing down, but the team went into the offseason knowing it had no supporting cast for the perennial Pro Bowl players.

When Hunter Hillenmeyer's career in Chicago ended due to concussions, the team was left with only Urlacher and Briggs under contract at linebacker. General manager Jerry Angelo says the goal is to get younger on defense, so bringing in complementary help at linebacker in free agency was expected.

Pisa Tinoisamoa has been effective when healthy, but he hasn't been healthy enough. Nick Roach has played solid in relief, though he doesn't provide much big-play production.

The Bears rely heavily on their nickel defense, with Urlacher and Briggs playing the only linebacker spots. It's here where they need a rookie such as J.T. Thomas to step forward and bolster depth. **GRADE: B+**

Secondary > The Bears returned to their traditional spot near the top (sixth) in third-down percentage, had the third-best passer rating allowed (74.4) and were tied for fifth in interceptions (21) last season. Of course, getting second-team All-Pro safety Chris Harris back enhanced the coverage, and the

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	19-14	Detroit Lions
09/19	W	27-20	Dallas Cowboys
09/27	W	20-17	Green Bay Packers
10/03	L	3-17	New York Giants
10/10	W	23-6	Carolina Panthers
10/17	L	20-23	Seattle Seahawks
10/24	L	14-17	Washington Redskins
11/07	W	22-19	Buffalo Bills
11/14	W	27-13	Minnesota Vikings
11/18	W	16-0	Miami Dolphins
11/28	W	31-26	Philadelphia Eagles
12/05	W	24-20	Detroit Lions
12/12	L	7-36	New England Patriots
12/20	W	40-14	Minnesota Vikings
12/26	W	38-34	New York Jets
01/02	L	3-10	Green Bay Packers

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Forte	237	1069	4.5	68	6
Taylor	112	267	2.4	24	3
Cutler	50	232	4.6	25	1
Hester	7	30	4.3	11	0
Bennett	2	9	4.5	5	0
Wolfe	4	8	2.0	7	0
Knox	1	2	2.0	2	0
CHICAGO	**414**	**1616**	**3.9**	**68**	**10**
OPPONENTS	**386**	**1441**	**3.7**	**45**	**14**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Forte	51	547	10.7	89	3
Knox	51	960	18.8	67	5
Bennett	46	561	12.2	48	3
Olsen	41	404	9.9	39	5
Hester	40	475	11.9	39	4
Taylor	20	139	7.0	18	0
Aromashodu	10	149	14.9	34	0
R. Davis	9	84	9.3	21	1
Manumaleuna	5	43	8.6	16	1
Clark	1	12	12.0	12	0
K. Davis	1	19	19.0	19	1
Williams	1	4	4.0	4	0
CHICAGO	**276**	**3397**	**12.3**	**89**	**23**
OPPONENTS	**363**	**3588**	**9.9**	**59**	**14**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cutler	432	261	3274	23	16
Collins	27	10	68	0	5
Hanie	7	5	55	0	0
CHICAGO	**466**	**276**	**3397**	**23**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**582**	**363**	**3820**	**14**	**21**

SACKS CHICAGO 34, OPPONENTS 56

Idonije 8, Peppers 8, Urlacher 4, Melton 2.5, Adams 2, Briggs 2, Toeaina 2, Harris 1.5, Iwuh 1, Moore 1, Tinoisamoa 1, Wootton 1

DRAFT REPORT

The Bears had only five draft picks, but made them count. Their top two selections should start immediately, with **Gabe Carimi** at left tackle and **Stephen Paea** at defensive tackle. Carimi made news by telling all who would listen that he was the best left tackle in the draft; now he'll get to prove it.

Chicago also drafted a potential starter at safety in third-round pick **Chris Conte**, who will likely be a core member of the special teams unit right away. In the fifth round, the Bears found quarterback **Nathan Enderle**, who will have a chance to make the team only if they choose to keep a developmental third QB on the roster. The Bears' final pick, **J.T. Thomas**, might become a productive backup at linebacker.

GRADE: A- (B C D F)

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	29	Gabe Carimi	OT	6-7	314	Wisconsin
2	21	Stephen Paea	DT	6-1	303	Oregon State
3	29	Chris Conte	FS	6-3	212	California
5	29	Nathan Enderle	QB	6-1	241	Idaho
6	30	J.T. Thomas	OLB	6-2	225	West Virginia

JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Collins, Todd	QB	6-4	223	11/5/71	17	Michigan
6 Cutler, Jay	QB	6-3	233	4/29/83	6	Vanderbilt
Enderle, Nathan	QB	6-4	240	1/12/88	0	Idaho
Gutierrez, Matt	QB	6-4	230	6/9/84	3	Idaho State
12 Hanie, Caleb	QB	6-2	225	9/11/85	4	Colorado State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Asiata, Johan	G	6-4	300	12/19/85	1	UNLV
Carimi, Gabe	T	6-7	314	6/13/88	0	Wisconsin
63 Garza, Roberto	G	6-2	310	3/26/79	11	Texas A&M-Kingsville
79 Horn, Levi	T	6-6	320	10/2/86	1	Montana
67 Johnson, Herman	G	6-7	360	1/29/85	2	LSU
57 Kreutz, Olin	C	6-2	292	6/9/77	14	Washington
60 Louis, Lance	G	6-3	305	4/24/85	3	San Diego State
65 Mannelly, Patrick	T	6-5	265	4/18/75	14	Duke
68 Omiyale, Frank	T	6-4	315	11/23/87	7	Tennessee Tech
73 Webb, J'Marcus	T	6-8	335	8/8/88	2	West Texas A&M
74 Williams, Chris	T	6-6	315	8/26/85	4	Vanderbilt
70 Williams, Edwin	C	6-3	313	12/10/86	3	Maryland

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
32 Bell, Kahlil	RB	5-11	212	12/10/86	3	UCLA
22 Forte, Matt	RB	6-2	218	12/10/85	4	Tulane
29 Taylor, Chester	RB	5-11	213	9/22/79	10	Toledo
48 Unga, Harvey	RB	6-0	237	1/18/87	2	BYU
43 Williams, Eddie	FB	6-1	249	8/22/87	2	Idaho
25 Wolfe, Garrett	RB	5-7	185	8/17/84	5	Northern Illinois

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
19 Aromashodu, Devin	WR	6-2	201	5/23/84	5	Auburn
80 Bennett, Earl	WR	6-0	204	3/23/87	4	Vanderbilt
88 Clark, Desmond	TE	6-3	249	4/20/77	13	Wake Forest
87 Davis, Kellen	TE	6-7	262	10/11/85	4	Michigan State
81 Davis, Rashied	WR	5-9	187	7/24/79	7	San Jose State
Fantuz, Andy	WR	6-4	221	12/18/83	0	Western Ontario (Canada)
23 Hester, Devin	WR	5-11	190	11/4/82	6	Miami (Fla.)
Jones, Onrea	WR	5-11	202	12/22/83	1	Hampton
13 Knox, Johnny	WR	6-0	185	11/3/86	3	Abilene Christian
86 Manumaleuna, Brandon	TE	6-2	295	1/4/80	11	Arizona
82 Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	255	3/11/85	5	Miami (Fla.)

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
95 Adams, Anthony	DT	6-0	310	6/18/80	9	Penn State
99 Harrison, Marcus	DT	6-3	312	7/10/84	4	Arkansas
71 Idonije, Israel	DE	6-6	270	11/17/80	8	Manitoba (Canada)
69 Melton, Henry	DE	6-3	260	10/11/86	3	Texas
Paea, Stephen	DT	6-1	303	5/11/88	0	Oregon State
90 Peppers, Julius	DE	6-7	283	1/18/80	10	North Carolina
Reed, Nick	DE	6-1	247	9/1/87	2	Oregon
75 Toeaina, Matt	DT	6-2	308	10/9/84	4	Oregon
Tyler, Tank	DT	6-2	306	2/14/85	3	N.C. State
98 Wootton, Corey	DE	6-6	270	6/22/87	2	Northwestern

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
35 Bowman, Zack	CB	6-1	193	11/18/84	4	Nebraska
36 Bullocks, Josh	S	6-0	207	7/28/83	7	Nebraska
Conte, Chris	S	6-3	212	2/23/89	0	California
Gerard, K.J.	CB	6-1	192	4/22/86	2	Northern Arizona
21 Graham, Corey	CB	6-0	198	7/25/85	5	New Hampshire
46 Harris, Chris	S	6-0	207	8/6/82	7	Louisiana-Monroe
26 Jennings, Tim	CB	5-8	185	12/24/83	6	Georgia
38 Manning, Danieal	S	5-11	202	8/9/82	6	Abilene Christian
30 Moore, D.J.	CB	5-9	183	3/22/87	3	Vanderbilt
31 Moore, Joshua	CB	5-11	188	8/20/88	2	Kansas State
20 Steltz, Craig	S	6-1	210	5/7/86	4	LSU
33 Tillman, Charles	CB	6-1	198	2/23/81	9	Louisiana-Lafayette
27 Wright, Major	S	5-11	206	7/1/88	2	Florida

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Briggs, Lance	LB	6-1	242	11/12/80	9	Arizona
52 Iwuh, Brian	LB	6-0	239	3/8/84	6	Colorado
Johnson, Chris	LB	6-2	230	12/10/86	1	South Dakota State
53 Roach, Nick	LB	6-1	234	6/16/85	5	Northwestern
Thomas, J.T.	LB	6-1	241	8/15/89	0	West Virginia
59 Tinoisamoa, Pisa	LB	6-1	230	7/15/81	9	Hawaii
Trahan, Patrick	LB	6-2	234	11/7/86	1	Ole Miss
54 Urlacher, Brian	LB	6-4	258	5/25/78	12	New Mexico
58 Wilson, Rod	LB	6-2	230	11/12/81	5	South Carolina

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	185	12/30/81	7	Penn State
4 Maynard, Brad	P	6-1	188	2/9/74	15	Ball State
McGee, Richmond	P	6-4	203	4/25/83	1	Texas

LOVIE SMITH, Head coach

Mike Martz, offensive coordinator; **Rod Marinelli,** asst. head coach/defensive coordinator; **Dave Toub,** special teams coordinator; **Bob Babich,** linebackers; **Gill Byrd,** asst. defensive backs/safeties; **Shane Day,** quarterbacks; **Mike DeBord,** tight ends; **Darryl Drake,** wide receivers; **Jon Hoke,** defensive backs; **Tim Spencer,** running backs; **Mike Tice,** offensive line; **Kevin O'Dea,** asst. special teams; **Mike Phair,** defensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

DT Tommie Harris (FA), **LB Hunter Hillenmeyer** (FA), **OT Kevin Shaffer** (OT)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

LOVIE SMITH

Smith long has been one to favor his defense and special teams with conservative decision-making. When he knows he has the upper hand on an opponent, like in 2010, he's even less willing to gamble with a fourth-down risk or longer field goal try. That situation is unlikely to change this season.

improved pass rush helped. Cornerback Charles Tillman played just as well on the right side as he had on the left by matching his career high with five interceptions.

D.J. Moore provided the best nickel back play the team has seen since Ricky Manning Jr. in the 2006 Super Bowl season. Tim Jennings also proved to be a valuable pickup at left corner. Surprisingly, the Bears added another safety in the draft, Chris Conte, rather than a cornerback. Going forward, expect Major Wright to take on a bigger role at safety. Coaches continue to think cornerback Josh Moore could make a leap forward like D.J. Moore did last season. **GRADE: B-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

One of the team's greatest strengths last year took a huge blow with the change in kickoff rules pushing the ball up to the 35-yard line. The Bears had a league-high 10 kick returns of 40 yards or longer last season.

Although Hester hasn't returned a kickoff for a touchdown since 2007, the threat of it happening will now be diminished. The rules committee has done what most opposing special teams couldn't over the past seven years—neutralize the Bears' special teams.

On the positive side, kicker Robbie Gould experienced his best season for touchbacks, and the rule change should help him. Punter Brad Maynard, a fixture since 2001, suffered his worst season with the Bears in 2010, and could face training camp competition (that is, if Chicago chooses to re-sign him). **GRADE: A-**

BOTTOM LINE

Last season the Bears' defense benefited by facing three third-string quarterbacks at one point, and the team had no starters on injured reserve. Such good fortune rarely occurs for any team, let alone in successive years. Combine that expectation with an aging defense, the reduced impact of special teams and keen competition from dominant Green Bay and rising Detroit, and it all adds up to more pressure on the offense in 2011—Cutler in particular.

For more than a decade, this has been Kreutz's or Urlacher's team. The burden of leadership is changing as these players get on in their careers. To a greater extent, this now becomes Cutler's team to carry, for better or worse.

80
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
DOWN

4

NFC NORTH

SN PICK 5-11

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Christian Ponder Joe Webb
FB	Jeff Dugan Ryan D'Imperio
RB	Adrian Peterson Toby Gerhart
LT	Bryant McKinnie Thomas Welch
LG	Steve Hutchinson Chris DeGeare
C	John Sullivan Jon Cooper
RG	Anthony Herrera Ryan Cook
RT	Phil Loadholt Ryan Cook
TE	Visanthe Shiancoe Kyle Rudolph
WR	Bernard Berrian Greg Camarillo
WR	Percy Harvin Sidney Rice
DEFENSE	
DE	Brian Robison Everson Griffen
DT	Jimmy Kennedy Letroy Guion
DT	Kevin Williams Christian Ballard
DE	Jared Allen Everson Griffen
SLB	Erin Henderson Kenny Onatolu
MLB	E.J. Henderson Jasper Brinkley
WLB	Chad Greenway Heath Farwell
LCB	Antoine Winfield Chris Cook
SS	Husain Abdullah Jamarca Sanford
FS	Madieu Williams Tyrell Johnson
RCB	Cedric Griffin Asher Allen
SPECIALISTS	
K	Ryan Longwell
P	Chris Kluwe
KR	Lorenzo Booker
PR	Greg Camarillo
LS	Cullen Loeffler

Vikings need an infusion of youth to try and right their sinking ship

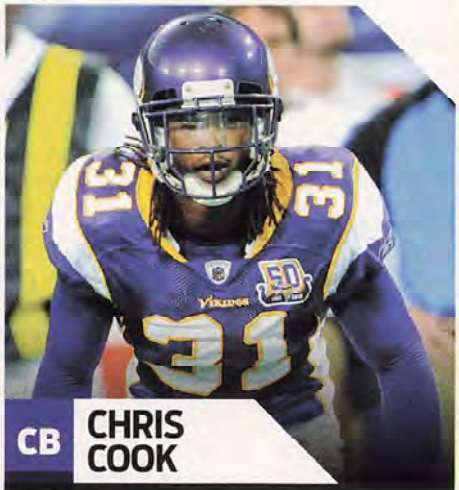
By Mark Craig *correspondent*

The 2010 Vikings imploded in the face of widespread Super Bowl expectations, so perhaps the '11 version can shock the league in a season that has no outside hope of success.

Don't bet on it. Not in the NFC North, where the Vikings are hamstrung by inexperience at quarterback, a questionable offensive line and a leaky secondary that must face the Packers and Bears twice. However, there are some talented players still on the roster. Running back Adrian Peterson, receiver Percy Harvin, defensive tackle Kevin Williams, defensive end Jared Allen, cornerback Antoine Winfield and linebacker Chad Greenway are among the reasons coach Leslie Frazier believes the Vikings could be winners sooner than some might expect.

"One of the things that gets me excited is the fact that I don't think we're that far away," says Frazier, who went 3-3 despite facing enormous adversity as the team's interim coach last season. "I really believe we're right back in the hunt for the NFC North championship and the NFC championship as well. I really believe that in my heart. I don't think we're depleted."

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



CB CHRIS COOK

Cook had an excellent training camp last year, but minor surgeries to both knees derailed his rookie season. Now fully healthy, he should be able to regain his confidence and fulfill his potential as a big, instinctive cornerback.

OFFENSE

New offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave, who spent the past five seasons as the Falcons' quarterbacks coach, is expected to install an offense similar to Atlanta's. That means a strong commitment to the run and a high-percentage passing attack that utilizes the tight end.

Musgrave comes with a spotty record as a coordinator in Carolina (four games in 2000) and Jacksonville (2003-04), but his work with young quarterbacks such as Matt Ryan in Atlanta is encouraging considering the Vikings took a chance on Florida State's Christian Ponder with the 12th pick in April's draft.

Quarterbacks ▸ Ponder was a necessary reach for the future of the franchise. He's an accurate passer with intelligence, mobility and grit. However, the lockout could minimize his immediate impact. The Vikings had plans to pursue a veteran as the labor standoff continued.

If Ponder isn't ready, the team won't risk crushing him physically and emotionally. Joe Webb, a second-year player, is a possible short-term starter. He's raw but did show some poise in two starts last season. Webb was drafted in the sixth round as a receiver (although he played quarterback at UAB) and made his NFL debut as a kick returner 12 games into his rookie year, so he's not exactly franchise-QB material. In the first of two starts to close last season, Webb's composure and athleticism helped beat a playoff-bound Eagles team in Philadelphia.

Rhett Bomar, who was signed off the Giants' practice squad to serve as the No. 3 QB last December, is back this season. He has a chance to regain that spot, but won't make the team if a veteran is signed. **GRADE: D**

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 4-4

- **ONLINE:** www.vikings.com
- **STADIUM:** Mall of America Field

Capacity: 64,035 **Turf:** FieldTurf

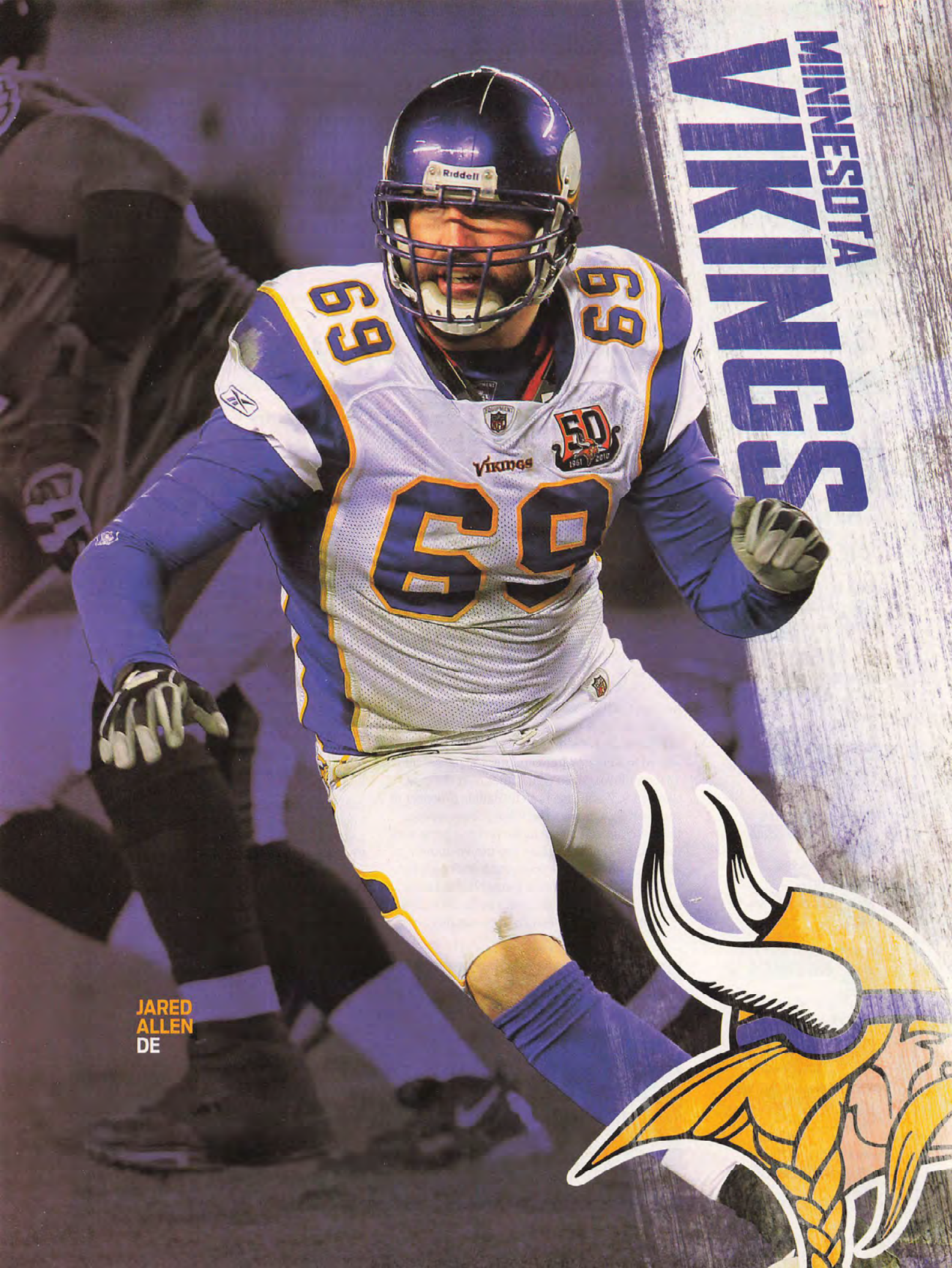
Tickets: 612-338-4537

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Minnesota State University-Mankato, Mankato, Minn.; 507-387-3335

VIKINGS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Paul Krause** *(1968-79)*	**53**	2	**Bobby Bryant** *(1968-80)*	**51**	3	**Ed Sharockman** *(1961-72)*	**40**

TOM DAHLIN / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE PAGE: BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN


MINNESOTA
VIKINGS
JARED
ALLEN
DE

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ SAN DIEGO	SEPT. 11 4:15	W / L
WEEK 2	TAMPA BAY	SEPT. 18 1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	DETROIT	SEPT. 25 1:00	W / L
WEEK 4	@ KANSAS CITY	OCT. 2 1:00	W / L
WEEK 5	ARIZONA	OCT. 9 1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	@ CHICAGO	OCT. 16 8:20	W / L
WEEK 7	GREEN BAY	OCT. 23 4:15	W / L
WEEK 8	@ CAROLINA	OCT. 30 1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	OPEN		
WEEK 10	@ GREEN BAY	NOV. 14 8:30	W / L
WEEK 11	OAKLAND	NOV. 20 1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	@ ATLANTA	NOV. 27 1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	DENVER	DEC. 4 4:05	W / L
WEEK 14	@ DETROIT	DEC. 11 1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	NEW ORLEANS	DEC. 18 1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	@ WASHINGTON	DEC. 24 1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	CHICAGO	JAN. 1 1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Running backs ▶ This is, by far, the Vikings' strength. Peterson is one of the best backs in a generation; he's in his prime and has solved the fumbling problems that plagued him before last season. He has also improved as a pass catcher. Toby Gerhart, a second-round draft pick in 2010, showed glimpses of what it takes to be a reliable backup. Gerhart isn't flashy, but he's a big back who runs hard and has the makings of a dependable pass protector.

Lorenzo Booker became a good addition when he was signed from the UFL during the 2010 season. Booker's impact came on kickoff returns, but as a smaller, shiftier back, he could become a quality third-down option who offers a change of pace from the other two. **GRADE: A**

Receivers ▶ There are numerous concerns in this group. Sidney Rice, whose breakout season in 2009 coincided with the team's trip to the NFC championship game, could end up as an unrestricted free agent depending on the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement. Bernard Berrian is signed, but didn't show anything last year that justifies keeping him around at $4 million this year. With Rice injured, the Vikings needed Berrian to step it up last season. He didn't, catching just 28 passes for 252 yards and no touchdowns in 14 games.

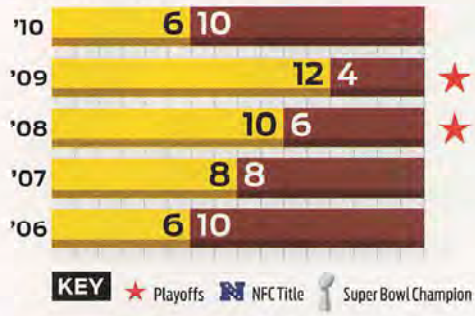
Percy Harvin is an electric presence capable of scoring any time he gets the ball. But dependability is an issue with him because it's impossible to predict when he'll be sidelined due to migraines that have given him problems since he was 10 years old. Greg Camarillo is a sure route-runner and decent slot receiver, but he won't strike fear into any defense.

Emmanuel Arceneaux is a sleeper. The former undrafted player out of Alcorn State in 2009 was signed in January after catching 130 passes and 12 touchdowns in 36 CFL games over the past two years. Webb also is an intriguing prospect at receiver. At tight end, the Vikings have a potential matchup advantage in the passing game with formations that will utilize veteran Visanthe Shiancoe and 2011 second-round draft pick Kyle Rudolph, a 6-6, 259-pound former Notre Dame star with good speed and soft hands. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▶ The Vikings' inability to protect Brett Favre or control the line of scrimmage with powerful run blocking played a role in last year's free-fall. Center John Sullivan is undersized and injury-prone. Right guard Anthony Herrera isn't a pile-mover and is coming off surgery to repair a torn ACL.

Left guard Steve Hutchinson is nearing the end of a stellar career, while left tackle Bryant McKinnie is declining. Right tackle Phil Loadholt is inconsistent, but young enough to warrant more time before being judged too harshly. Chris DeGeare, the team's 2010 fifth-round draft pick, has promising size and power. With some hard

5-YEAR RECORD: 42-38



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Vikings)

"Obviously, the quarterback position needs to be addressed. That's an easy determination to make. But to me, I think that offensive line has to be addressed. I saw (Brett) Favre get hit a ton. A ton. I don't think (left tackle) Bryant McKinnie is playing the way he used to play a few years back. I think (left guard) Steve Hutchinson is getting up in years (he turns 34 Nov. 1). There are other problems up front as well, so I personally think that offensive line is as big of a problem as the quarterback position. ...

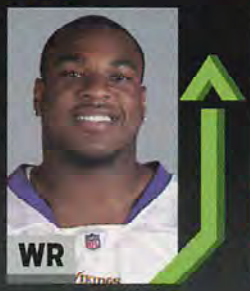
"And defensively, probably their defensive secondary isn't what you need to win. It looks awfully thin. Up front, it doesn't look like (nose tackle) Pat Williams will be back. And I'm not sure what's going on with (unsigned left end) Ray Edwards. It doesn't look like he'll be back, either. ...

"They do have some talented players—guys like Adrian Peterson, Jared Allen, Kevin Williams and Percy Harvin. But I'm looking at that team and I see an awful lot of holes to fill before they can contend."

FANTASY SPIN

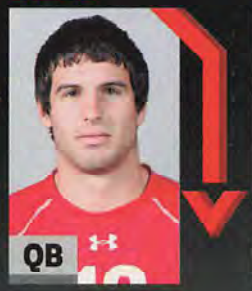
Adrian Peterson averaged 63.6 rushing yards per game during coach Leslie Frazier's interim stint. Peterson needs to get back to 300 carries to stake his claim as the top fantasy running back.

BUY



Percy Harvin

SELL

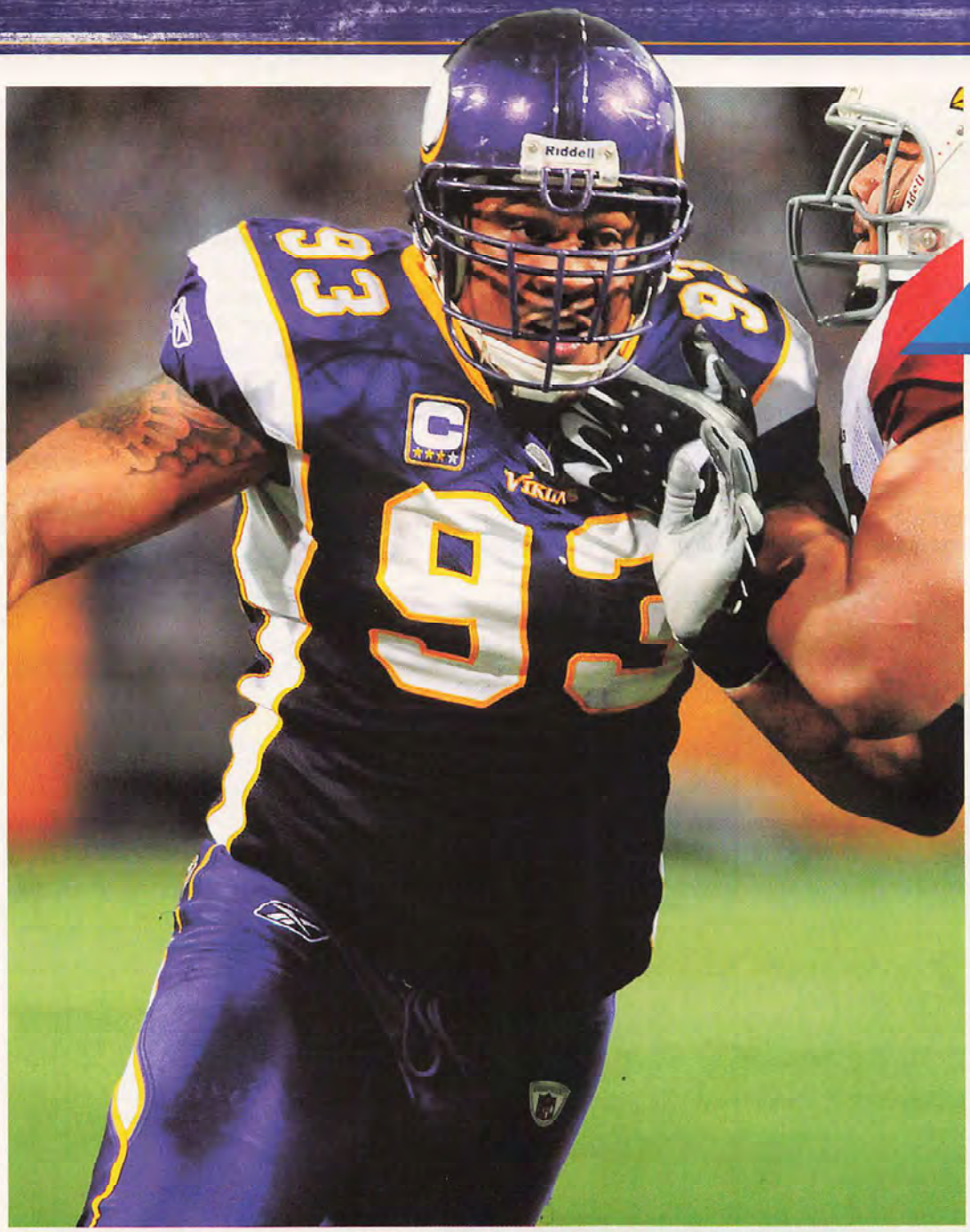


Christian Ponder

SLEEPER

Kyle Rudolph

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



THE BOOK ON ...

KEVIN WILLIAMS

"He's a three-technique tackle you have to account for all the time. Great quickness off the ball. He's one that has great effort all the time. Excellent pursuit. You can get different attacks from him. He can come at you with power. He can come at you with quickness. Because of that, I think a lot of people slide their protection to him. ...

"He's a real problem because if you're sliding your protection to take care of him, you can't slide it further and take care of the end, which, of course, is a problem when the end is Jared Allen. Depending on formation and so on, you will be in situations where you have to single up one or the other. So they complement themselves from that standpoint. ...

"At this point in his career (Williams turns 31 before the season), I really don't see any weaknesses in the kid's game."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	314.9	23
Rushing	121.4	10
Passing	193.6	26
Scoring	281	29
Punt Returns	8.6	21
Kick Returns	22.3	17
Red Zone TD %	43.5	27
Total Defense	312.6	8
Against Rush	102.2	9
Against Pass	210.4	10
Points Allowed	348	18
Interceptions	15	17t
Sacks	31	20t
Turnover Diff.	-11	29

work, he could be the heir apparent at left guard in a few years. Ryan Cook can play every position except left tackle. **GRADE: D**

DEFENSE

The Vikings will play the same conservative Tampa 2 scheme they've believed in since 2006. However, new defensive coordinator Fred Pagac proved during his interim stint at the end of last season that he's more aggressive than Frazier was as his predecessor. Pagac likes to blitz a lot and with more exotic combinations of pass rushers.

Defensive line ▸ The front line that was the foundation of the Vikings' dominant run defense from 2006-09 needs rebuilding. Nose tackle Pat Williams, 38, likely won't return. Left end Ray Edwards is unsigned and looking to leave if he qualifies for free agency under the new collective bargaining agreement.

Tackle Kevin Williams will turn 31 in August and might finally have to serve a four-game suspension after choosing to drop his long legal challenge after being caught using a banned substance in 2008. At right end, Allen declined as a pass rusher in 2010 after back-to-back seasons as a first-team All-Pro.

Jimmy Kennedy, the former 2003 first-round pick of the Rams, will get a shot at nose tackle. He has earned that after getting in shape and serving as a decent backup the past two years. Letroy Guion has shown promise behind Kevin Williams, while Brian Robison is a strong pass rusher who's good enough to replace Edwards at left end.

Everson Griffen is talented, but

ICON SMI

offseason legal issues have shown why he dropped so far in the 2010 draft. Rookie Christian Ballard, a 2011 fourth-round draft pick from Iowa, could provide the depth the team needs. The Vikings had a second-round grade on Ballard, but he fell two rounds after reportedly testing positive for marijuana at the NFL Combine. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸ The Vikings enjoyed stability at linebacker from 2007-10, but most likely will break in a new starter since strongside 'backer Ben Leber will likely be allowed to leave via free agency. Leber was steady, but he's also 32. With Leber and Greenway in the last year of their contracts in 2010, the Vikings made a commitment to the younger Greenway by placing their franchise tag on him. Greenway, a consistent player who has led the team in tackles the past two seasons, is on the verge of becoming a Pro Bowler.

Middle linebacker E.J. Henderson bounced back nicely in 2010, starting all 16 games after breaking a femur in December 2009. He turns 31 in August and sometimes struggles with pass coverage in the cover 2 scheme, but should be OK for at least another year. Henderson's younger brother, Erin, is a strong special teams player with a chance to take over Leber's starting job.

Backup middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley is strong against the run but struggles in pass coverage at times.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/09	L	9-14	New Orleans Saints
09/19	L	10-14	Miami Dolphins
09/26	W	24-10	Detroit Lions
10/11	L	20-29	New York Jets
10/17	W	24-21	Dallas Cowboys
10/24	L	24-28	Green Bay Packers
10/31	L	18-28	New England Patriots
11/07	W	27-24	Arizona Cardinals
11/14	L	13-27	Chicago Bears
11/21	L	3-31	Green Bay Packers
11/28	W	17-13	Washington Redskins
12/05	W	38-14	Buffalo Bills
12/13	L	3-21	New York Giants
12/20	L	14-40	Chicago Bears
12/28	W	24-14	Philadelphia Eagles
01/02	L	13-20	Detroit Lions

WON 6, LOST 10

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Peterson	283	1298	4.6	80	12
Gerhart	81	322	4.0	21	1
Webb	18	120	6.7	16	2
Harvin	18	107	5.9	17	1
Jackson	7	63	9.0	33	0
Young	13	29	2.2	6	0
Favre	17	8	0.5	10	0
Dugan	2	2	1.0	2	0
Tahi	1	1	1.0	1	0
Berrian	1	-8	-8.0	-8	0
MINNESOTA	**441**	**1942**	**4.4**	**80**	**16**
OPPONENTS	**417**	**1635**	**3.9**	**73**	**10**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Harvin	71	868	12.2	53	5
Shiancoe	47	530	11.3	33	2
Peterson	36	341	9.5	34	1
Berrian	28	252	9.0	30	0
Gerhart	21	167	8.0	23	0
Camarillo	20	240	12.0	31	1
Kleinsasser	17	148	8.7	20	0
Lewis	17	197	11.6	33	0
Rice	17	280	16.5	46	2
Moss	13	174	13.4	37	2
Tahi	6	39	6.5	11	1
Booker	5	32	6.4	7	0
Dugan	4	30	7.5	10	0
Young	2	11	5.5	13	0
Baskett	1	18	18.0	18	0
MINNESOTA	**305**	**3327**	**10.9**	**53**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**333**	**3367**	**10.1**	**67**	**25**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Favre	358	217	2509	11	19
Webb	89	54	477	0	3
Jackson	58	34	341	3	4
MINNESOTA	**505**	**305**	**3327**	**14**	**26**
OPPONENTS	**529**	**333**	**3544**	**25**	**15**

SACKS MINNESOTA 31, OPPONENTS 36

Allen 11, Edwards 8, Guion 2, Robison 2, Winfield 2, Greenway 1, Henderson 1, Mitchell 1, Sanford 1, K. Williams 1, Kennedy 0.5, M. Williams 0.5,

DRAFT REPORT

Ponder

Fair or not, this draft will only be a success if quarterback **Christian Ponder** becomes Minnesota's starter. If he turns out to be only a backup, however, it will set this franchise back five years. At least they drafted the highest-rated tight end in **Kyle Rudolph** to give Ponder a weapon, but Rudolph is coming off hamstring surgery and missed most of the 2010 college season.

The Vikings took **Christian Ballard** in the fourth round to start next to Kevin Williams in their 4-3 defensive front. The other seven players drafted will likely serve as backups or contribute on special teams. Linebacker **Ross Homan** was a steal in the sixth round, while cornerback **Brandon Burton** may earn immediate playing time, as there were several injuries to the Minnesota secondary last year.

GRADE B

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	12	Christian Ponder	QB	6-2	229	Florida State
2	11	Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-6	259	Notre Dame
4	9	Christian Ballard	DE	6-4	283	Iowa
5	8	Brandon Burton	CB	6-0	185	Utah
6	3	DeMarcus Love	OT	6-4	315	Arkansas
6	5	Mistral Raymond	FS	6-1	194	South Florida
6	7	Brandon Fusco	C	6-4	306	Slippery Rock
6	35	Ross Homan	OLB	6-1	240	Ohio State
7	12	D'Aundre Reed	DE	6-4	261	Arizona
7	33	Stephen Burton	WR	6-1	221	West Texas A&M

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Bomar, Rhett	QB	6-2	225	7/2/85	1	Sam Houston State
7 Jackson, Tarvaris	QB	6-2	225	4/21/83	6	Alabama State
Ponder, Christian	QB	6-2	229	2/25/88	0	Florida State
9 Ramsey, Patrick	QB	6-2	225	2/14/79	9	Tulane
14 Webb, Joe	QB	6-4	220	11/14/86	2	UAB

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
79 Brown, Patrick	T	6-5	310	12/25/86	2	Central Florida
62 Cook, Ryan	T	6-6	328	5/6/83	6	New Mexico
68 Cooper, Jon	C	6-2	291	10/1/86	3	Oklahoma
72 DeGeare, Chris	G	6-4	335	2/17/87	2	Wake Forest
Fusco, Brandon	C	6-4	306	11/17/89	0	Slippery Rock
64 Herrera, Anthony	G	6-2	315	6/14/80	8	Tennessee
76 Hutchinson, Steve	G	6-5	313	11/1/77	11	Michigan
71 Loadholt, Phil	T	6-8	343	1/21/86	3	Oklahoma
46 Loeffler, Cullen	C	6-5	241	1/27/81	8	Texas
Love, DeMarcus	T	6-4	315	3/7/88	0	Arkansas
74 McKinnie, Bryant	T	6-8	335	9/23/79	10	Miami (Fla.)
Olsen, Seth	G	6-5	308	12/17/85	2	Iowa
65 Sullivan, John	C	6-4	301	8/8/85	4	Notre Dame
66 Welch, Thomas	T	6-7	310	6/19/87	1	Vanderbilt

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Booker, Lorenzo	RB	5-10	191	6/14/84	3	Florida State
32 Gerhart, Toby	RB	6-0	231	3/28/87	2	Stanford
28 Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	217	3/21/85	5	Oklahoma
38 Tahi, Naufahu	RB	6-0	254	10/30/81	6	BYU
34 Young, Albert	RB	5-10	209	2/25/85	3	Iowa

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Arceneaux, Emmanuel	WR	6-2	210	9/17/87	0	Alcorn State
19 Baskett, Hank	WR	6-4	220	9/4/82	6	New Mexico
87 Berrian, Bernard	WR	6-1	185	12/27/80	8	Fresno State
84 Brown, Freddie	WR	6-4	200	6/24/86	1	Utah
Burton, Stephen	WR	6-1	221	12/11/89	0	West Texas A&M
85 Camarillo, Greg	WR	6-1	190	4/18/82	6	Stanford
83 Dugan, Jeff	TE	6-4	258	4/8/81	8	Maryland
12 Harvin, Percy	WR	5-11	184	5/28/88	3	Florida
13 Iglesias, Juaquin	WR	6-1	205	8/22/87	2	Oklahoma
11 Johnson, Jaymar	WR	6-0	176	7/10/84	3	Jackson State
40 Kleinsasser, Jimmy	TE	6-3	272	1/31/77	13	North Dakota
17 Lewis, Greg	WR	6-0	185	2/12/80	9	Illinois
18 Rice, Sidney	WR	6-4	202	9/1/86	5	South Carolina
Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	259	11/9/89	0	Notre Dame
81 Shiancoe, Visanthe	TE	6-4	250	6/18/80	9	Morgan State

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
69 Allen, Jared	DE	6-6	270	4/3/82	8	Idaho State
Awasom, Adrian	DE	6-5	280	10/25/83	3	North Texas
Ballard, Christian	DT	6-4	283	1/3/89	0	Iowa
91 Edwards, Ray	DE	6-5	268	1/1/85	6	Purdue
90 Evans, Fred	DT	6-4	305	11/6/83	6	Texas State
97 Griffen, Everson	DE	6-3	273	12/22/87	2	USC
98 Guion, Letroy	DT	6-4	303	6/21/87	4	Florida State
95 Johnson, Tremaine	DT	6-2	285	9/26/85	1	LSU
73 Kennedy, Jimmy	DT	6-4	320	11/15/79	9	Penn State
Reed, D'Aundre	DE	6-4	261	1/1/88	0	Arizona
96 Robison, Brian	DE	6-3	259	4/27/83	5	Texas
93 Williams, Kevin	DT	6-5	311	8/16/80	9	Oklahoma State
94 Williams, Pat	DT	6-3	317	10/24/72	15	Texas A&M

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
39 Abdullah, Husain	S	6-0	204	7/27/85	4	Washington State
21 Allen, Asher	CB	5-9	194	1/22/88	3	Georgia
Burton, Brandon	CB	6-0	185	7/31/89	0	Utah
Castille, Simeon	CB	6-0	190	10/12/85	2	Alabama
31 Cook, Chris	CB	6-2	212	2/15/87	2	Virginia
37 Frampton, Eric	S	5-11	205	2/6/84	5	Washington State
23 Griffin, Cedric	CB	6-0	203	11/11/82	6	Texas
25 Johnson, Tyrell	S	6-0	207	5/19/85	4	Arkansas State
Parks, Cord	CB	5-10	178	11/12/86	1	Northeastern
Raymond, Mistral	CB	6-1	194	9/7/88	0	South Florida
33 Sanford, Jamarca	S	5-10	200	8/27/85	3	Ole Miss
29 Sheppard, Lito	CB	5-10	194	4/8/81	10	Florida
35 Sherels, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	9/30/87	1	Minnesota
41 Walker, Frank	CB	5-11	200	8/6/81	9	Tuskegee
20 Williams, Madieu	S	6-1	203	10/18/81	8	Maryland
26 Winfield, Antoine	CB	5-9	180	6/24/77	13	Ohio State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
54 Brinkley, Jasper	LB	6-1	252	7/12/85	3	South Carolina
44 D'Imperio, Ryan	LB	6-3	241	8/15/87	1	Rutgers
59 Farwell, Heath	LB	6-0	235	12/31/81	7	San Diego State
52 Greenway, Chad	LB	6-2	242	1/12/83	6	Iowa
56 Henderson, E.J.	LB	6-1	245	8/3/80	9	Maryland
50 Henderson, Erin	LB	6-3	244	7/1/86	4	Maryland
Horman, Ross	LB	6-1	240	3/5/87	0	Ohio State
51 Leber, Ben	LB	6-3	244	12/7/78	10	Kansas State
55 Onatolu, Kenny	LB	6-2	225	10/8/82	3	Nebraska-Omaha

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Kluwe, Chris	P	6-4	215	12/24/81	7	UCLA
8 Longwell, Ryan	K	6-0	200	8/16/74	15	California

LESLIE FRAZIER, Head coach
Bill Musgrave, offensive coordinator; **Fred Pagac,** defensive coordinator; **Mike Priefer,** special teams coordinator; **Jeff Davidson,** offensive line; **Karl Dunbar,** defensive line; **Craig Johnson,** quarterbacks; **Jimmie Johnson,** tight ends; **Diron Reynolds,** asst. defensive line; **James Saxon,** running backs; **Ryan Silverfield,** asst. offensive line; **Mike Singletary,** linebackers; **George Stewart,** wide receivers; **Chris White,** asst. special teams; **Joe Woods,** defensive backs, **Matt Sheldon,** asst. defensive backs

OFFSEASON MOVES
as of May 11

ADDITIONS
None

SUBTRACTIONS
None

INSIDE THE HEADSET
LESLIE FRAZIER

Frazier is similar to his mentor, Tony Dungy, in demeanor, player relations and the defensive philosophy Dungy popularized in Tampa. Offensively, Frazier is more apt to build a ball-control offense around a strong running game and short-passing attack that utilizes the tight end to move the chains and minimize the risks that come with a new quarterback.

GRADE: C

Secondary ➤ A lack of depth and playmakers makes this an area of concern again. Winfield is the team's best defensive back, but he'll be 34 this season. The other starting corner, Cedric Griffin, has torn both ACLs over the past two seasons, so his career is in jeopardy. At safety, nobody provides a physical presence, sound tackling or a knack for creating turnovers. Free safety Madieu Williams takes bad angles and misses tackles. He's due to make $5.4 million this year and could lose his job to Tyrell Johnson.

However, Johnson, a second-round pick in 2008, has also been a big disappointment. He's regressed and fallen behind 2009 seventh-round draft pick Jamarca Sanford and 2008 undrafted free agent Husain Abdullah. Sanford and Abdullah are better suited to play special teams, but one could end up starting at strong safety.

Often an easy target at nickel back, cornerback Asher Allen fell behind Frank Walker, who was signed off the street last season. Chris Cook, a second-round pick last year, is a huge corner who showed good instincts last preseason. But his confidence was shot early in the regular season after he tore the meniscus in both knees. If Cook comes back healthy, he'll be a player to watch. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Moving kickoffs to the 35-yard line makes Ryan Longwell more attractive. But first the Vikings must re-sign the unrestricted free agent. He'll be 37 this season, but he's also made 43 of 46 field goal attempts the past two seasons.

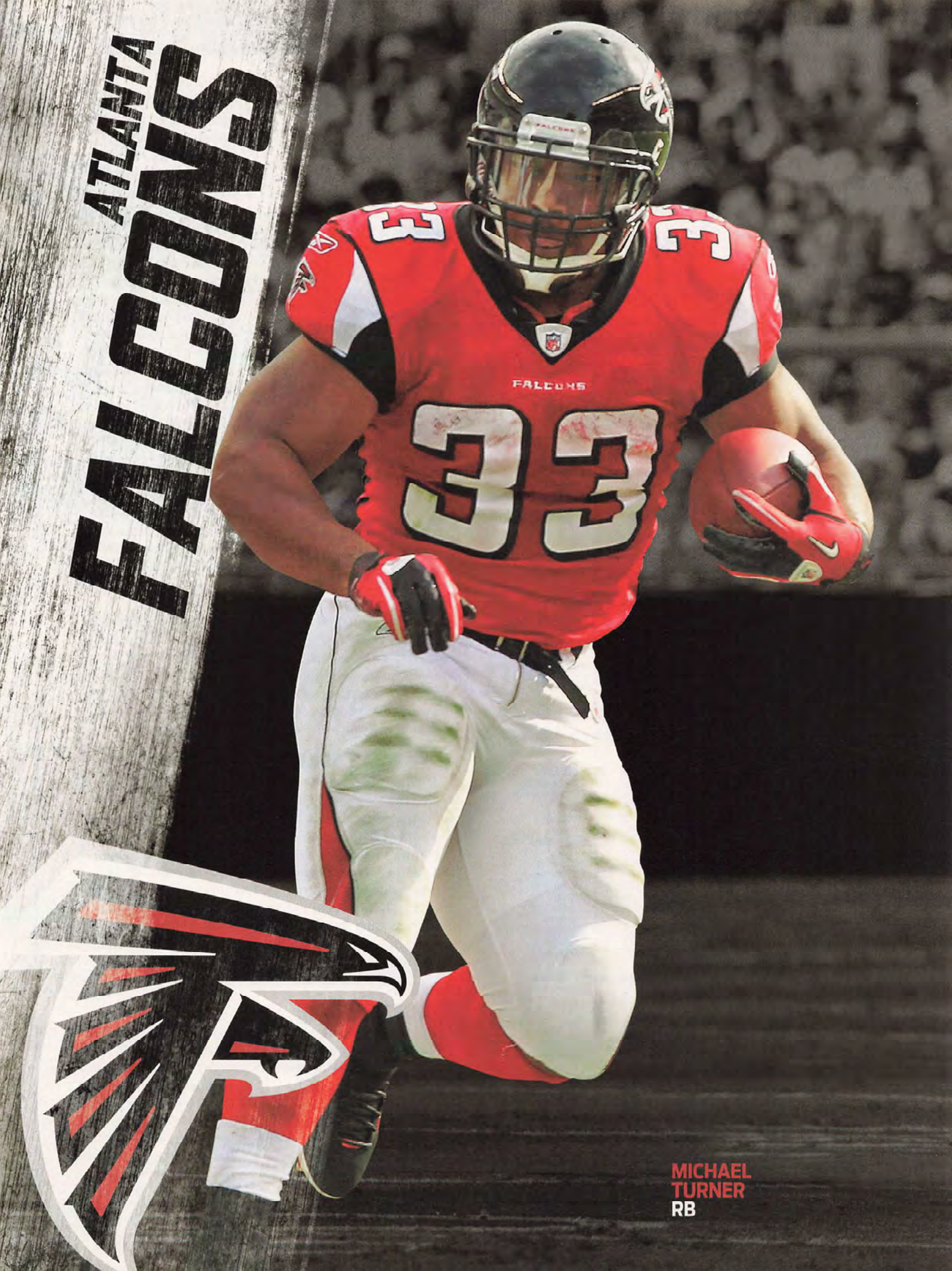
Punter Chris Kluwe is under contract and coming off another strong season in which he downed 32 punts inside the 20-yard line. Harvin is an electric kick returner, but his history of migraines could result in Booker getting the job full time. Booker showed last season that he's capable. Camarillo has sure hands but is no threat to break a long return. Veteran long snapper Cullen Loeffler is steady. **GRADE: C**

BOTTOM LINE

Favre is gone and Ponder is green, so there's no immediate reason for optimism at quarterback this season. The offensive line is in decline, the defensive line needs rebuilding and there are holes in the secondary and at outside linebacker. While this team is by no means devoid of talent, the Vikings appear to be in trouble in the NFC North without a proven quarterback.

72 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT **DOWN**


ATLANTA
FALCONS
33
FALCONS
MICHAEL
TURNER
RB

With rookie wideout in tow, Falcons are Jonesin' for deep playoff run

By D. Orlando Ledbetter *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Under general manager Thomas Dimitroff and head coach Mike Smith, the Falcons have been making a quick but steady climb to the top of the NFC South.

Now, their goal is to remain king of the hill in the NFC South and do some damage in the playoffs.

Atlanta made a statement in the draft when the team moved up 21 spots to draft wide receiver Julio Jones with the sixth overall pick. They wanted to add a playmaker to the offense and take some pressure off star wideout Roddy White, and Jones fit the bill.

There have been player breakthroughs in each of Dimitroff's three seasons in Atlanta, though some of their younger players still need to blossom—especially on the defensive side of the ball. The goal is to develop an elite team that can sustain its success.

OFFENSE

Coordinator Mike Mularkey made good use of his weapons last season, as he leaned on running back Michael Turner and White. The end result was a mixture of a power running attack and an intermediate passing game.

Mularkey welcomes his buddy Bob Bratkowski over from Cincinnati as the quarterbacks coach, and received some speed at wide receiver in Jones and a scatback in Jacquizz Rodgers to add to the mix.

Quarterbacks ▸ Matt Ryan, who was married in the offseason to his college sweetheart, continued to develop in his third year in the league. He was impressive in leading the team to six victories in the fourth quarter or overtime.

The knock on Ryan is that he can't throw the long ball. With Smith calling for more explosive plays, it's apparent the Falcons are ready to take off Ryan's training wheels and let him drive the ball down the field.

Also, the Falcons would like to build on their no-huddle attack. Mularkey only unleashed Ryan once last year—against Baltimore—to run the attack for the full game. By adding some speed at running back and wide receiver, the Falcons are hoping Ryan is ready to handle a more open attack.

Chris Redman, who is in the last year of his contract, is a dependable backup, while John Parker Wilson will enter camp as the No. 3 QB. **GRADE: B+**

Running backs ▸ Turner bounced back with a 1,371-yard season after battling through injuries in 2009. He was dependable and steady as teams took away the cutback lanes on his stretch runs. Turner averaged a respectable 4.1 yards per carry and scored 12 rushing touchdowns.

Fullback Ovie Mughelli made his first trip to the Pro Bowl based on his ability as a lead blocker. Jason Snelling was third on the team in receptions (44) and provided Ryan an outlet if White or Tony

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE

The Falcons gave up five picks to get Jones and he's going to play early. With Roddy White and Tony Gonzalez attracting attention, the rookie will get some one-on-one opportunities to make plays. He has tremendous speed and is a powerful runner after the catch. The Falcons believe they have a dynamic duo on par with the Colts' former combination of Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 13-3 HOME: 7-1

- **ONLINE:** www.atlantafalcons.com
- **STADIUM:** Georgia Dome

Capacity: 71,228 **Turf:** Artificial

Tickets: 404-223-8444

- **TRAINING CAMP:** The Branch, Flowery Branch, Ga.; 770-965-3115

OFFSEASON MOVES *as of May 11*

ADDITIONS

P Ken Parrish (FA/Florida Tuskers, UFL)

SUBTRACTIONS

S Erik Coleman (FA/Lions)

NFC SOUTH **1**

SN PICK **10-6**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Matt Ryan Chris Redman
FB	Ovie Mughelli Jason Snelling
RB	Michael Turner Jacquizz Rodgers
LT	Sam Baker Jose Valdez
LG	Mike Johnson Jose Valdez
C	Joe Hawley Todd McClure
RG	Harvey Dahl Andrew Jackson
RT	Will Svitek Garrett Reynolds
TE	Tony Gonzalez Michael Palmer
WR	Roddy White Michael Jenkins
WR	Julio Jones Harry Douglas
DEFENSE	
DE	Kroy Biermann Chauncey Davis
DT	Jonathan Babineaux Vance Walker
DT	Corey Peters Peria Jerry
DE	John Abraham Lawrence Sidbury
SLB	Sean Weatherspoon Spencer Adkins
MLB	Curtis Lofton Akeem Dent
WLB	Mike Peterson Coy Wire
LCB	Brent Grimes Dominique Franks
SS	William Moore Erik Coleman
FS	Thomas DeCoud Shann Schillinger
RCB	Dunta Robinson Chris Owens
SPECIALISTS	
K	Matt Bryant
P	Michael Koenen
KR	Eric Weems
PR	Eric Weems
LS	Joe Zelenka

DANIEL SHIREY / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE: AL BELLO / GETTY IMAGES

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ CHICAGO	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	PHILADELPHIA	SEPT. 18	8:20	W / L
WEEK 3	@ TAMPA BAY	SEPT. 25	4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	@ SEATTLE	OCT. 2	4:05	W / L
WEEK 5	GREEN BAY	OCT. 9	8:20	W / L
WEEK 6	CAROLINA	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L
WEEK 7	@ DETROIT	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	OPEN			
WEEK 9	@ INDIANAPOLIS	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	NEW ORLEANS	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	TENNESSEE	NOV. 20	1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	MINNESOTA	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	@ HOUSTON	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ CAROLINA	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	JACKSONVILLE	DEC. 15	8:20	W / L
WEEK 16	@ NEW ORLEANS	DEC. 26	8:30	W / L
WEEK 17	TAMPA BAY	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

Gonzalez were covered.

What the Falcons covet is the speed of running back Jerious Norwood, who was hurt and missed the entire 2010 season. The team will allow him to get healthy, but must start looking elsewhere for the speed and explosiveness they were hoping to get from Norwood. Drafting Rodgers is a good start. The coaches are also high on reserves Antone Smith and Gartrell Johnson. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ White was spectacular as he continued to etch his name in the team's record books. If he wasn't slowed late in the season by a knee injury, White would have had a shot at breaking the league's single-season receiving record.

By adding Jones and his 4.34 speed to the mix, the Falcons should be able to throw more deep passes. Jones is also expected to relieve some of the double coverage and rolling safeties that White saw most of last season.

While Gonzalez doesn't possess the speed to take off the down the seam anymore, he's still crafty and knows how to get open. Michael Jenkins struggled with a shoulder injury early in the season and never played to his abilities. Harry Douglas was coming back from a knee injury, and Ryan appeared to lose confidence in him after a few early drops.

The team is hopeful that Kerry Meier, a fifth-round pick in 2010, can be effective coming out of the slot. Also, Eric Weems, who showed some big-play ability on special teams, will get more action at wide receiver. **GRADE: B+**

Offensive line ▸ This unit will have the most upheaval since the team let five starters on defense walk after the 2008 season. They may need to replace three starters and possibly four.

Left guard Justin Blalock, right guard Harvey Dahl and right tackle Tyson Clabo could all become free agents. Center Todd McClure, the anchor and protection-caller, is set to enter his 13th year in the league.

However, the Falcons have planned for the potential exodus.

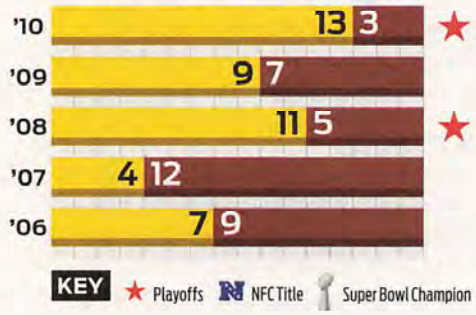
They drafted right tackle Garrett Reynolds in 2009, and also picked guard Mike Johnson in the third round and center-guard hybrid Joe Hawley in the fourth round last season.

Jose Valdez, a massive tackle, has been getting groomed for duty while on the practice squad. Will Svitek served as a swing tackle and blocking tight end over the last two seasons and shouldn't be ruled out as a contender at right tackle. **GRADE: C**

DEFENSE

The Falcons remain a steadfast 4-3 team, while the rest of the league appears to be

5-YEAR RECORD: 44-36



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Falcons)

"It was simply amazing what they were able to do with Roddy White last season. Teams knew they were going to get him the ball and tried to take him away, but they couldn't. (Mike) Mularkey was not shy about calling his number. Sometimes, young quarterbacks have a tendency to lean on a receiver, and (Matt) Ryan did appear to be doing that at times. But the other receivers were just not getting open or they weren't staying open for very long. Tony Gonzalez put on a clinic and how they use him is impressive, too. ...

"You've got to try to stop (Michael) Turner in the run game, White in the passing game and then don't let Gonzalez keep moving the chains with third-down catches. It's not pretty, but it works well. Defensively, they are young. You still have to account for (John) Abraham or he'll just wreck the entire offense. (Jonathan) Babineaux is an underappreciated player at tackle. The players on the back end are developing."

FANTASY SPIN

Roddy White emerged as an elite fantasy receiver last season while leading the league with 179 targets. Julio Jones will steal a few looks, but White should see less double teams with the rookie around.

BUY

RB

Michael Turner

SELL

TE

Tony Gonzalez

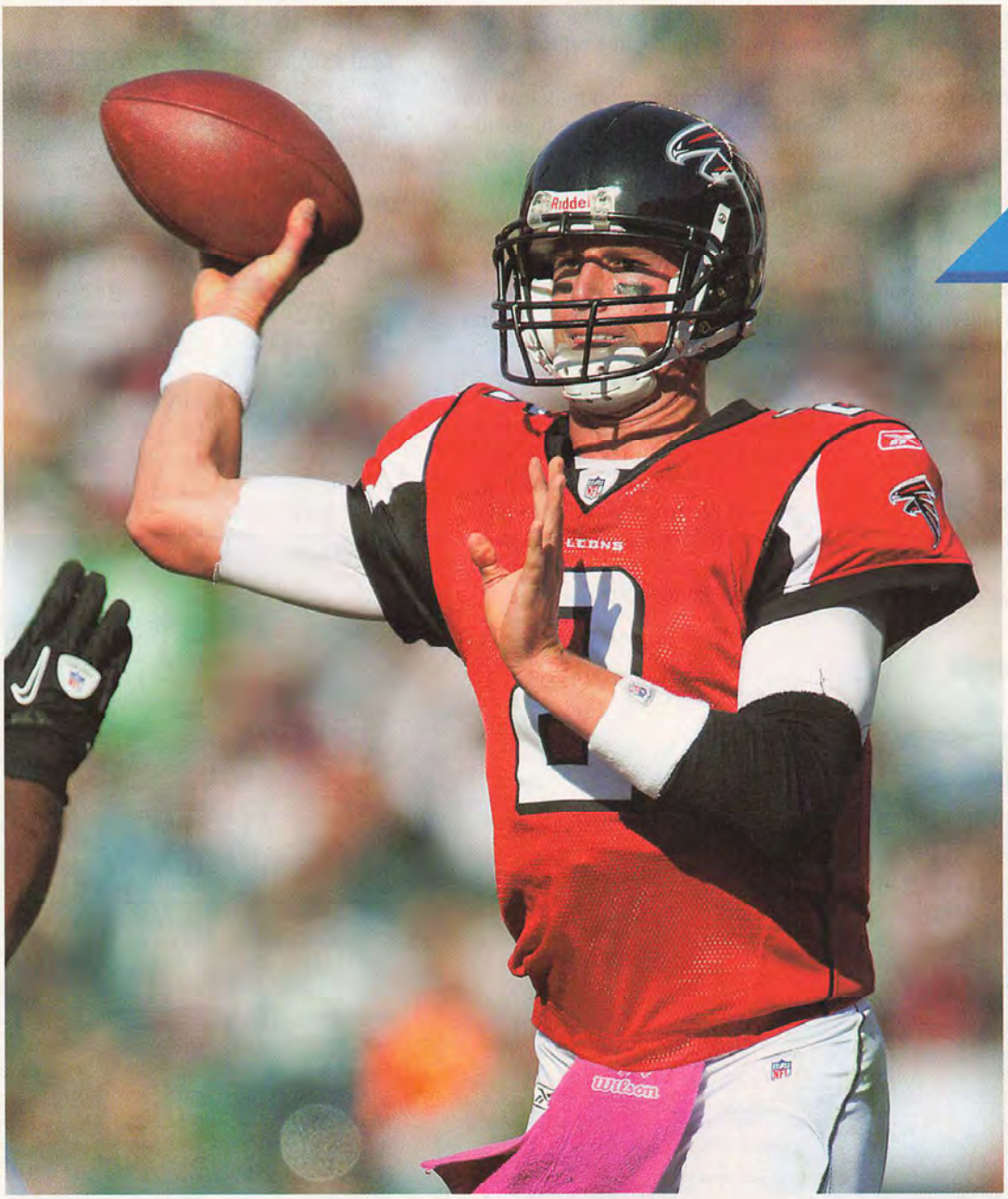
SLEEPER

WR

Julio Jones

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

DARRELL WALKER / ICON SMI



ROB TRINGALI / GETTY IMAGES

THE BOOK ON ...

MATT RYAN

"They definitely have a winner at quarterback. That was huge for them making the right call with that decision. If you remember, Brian Brohm was considered the No. 1 quarterback in that class at one point. Ryan has won games and Joe Flacco has been solid for Baltimore. Ryan doesn't wow you with arm strength, but his ability to make the right decisions and stand in the pocket under pressure is what makes them so tough. ...

"You have to give a lot of credit to (Mike) Mularkey and (Bill) Musgrave because they didn't put too much on his plate. They gave him enough to go out there and win games with. There might be players who can throw it longer and harder, but he's a winner. He was just the perfect fit for them."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	341.1	16
Rushing	118.2	12
Passing	222.9	15
Scoring	414	5
Punt Returns	12.1	5t
KICK RETURNS	**26.5**	**1**
Red Zone TD %	60.3	7
Total Defense	332.4	16
Against Rush	105.9	10
Against Pass	226.6	22
Points Allowed	288	5
Interceptions	22	4
Sacks	31	20t
Turnover Diff.	14	3

tinkering more with the 3-4 and other situational alignments.

Defensive coordinator Brian Van Gorder took more chances in 2010 and tried to blitz, but the defenders were not able to get to the quarterback on a consistent basis. The gambles were met with mixed results.

The Falcons seem to be on a never-ending quest to get pass rushers. John Abraham turned 33 in May, and they figure to have a revamped linebacking corps. Atlanta also must find an answer at nickel back.

Defensive line ▸ Abraham returned to form last season with 13 sacks after recording just 5.5 in 2009, and dominated some of the best young tackles in the game last season. He doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

The team's problem remains getting a pass rush opposite Abraham. The inability to sack Drew Brees cost the Falcons a game late in the season, and when they couldn't wrestle Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers to the ground, he torched their secondary in the playoffs.

Atlanta has selected three defensive ends over the last five drafts in Jamaal Anderson, Kroy Biermann and Lawrence Sidbury, but none have made major impacts so far.

Biermann's sack total went down from five to three after he was promoted to a staring role last year. He might be better as a designated rusher in passing situations.

Defensive tackles Jonathan Babineaux

and Corey Peters were stout against the run, and Babineaux put some pressure on the quarterback. The team is still hopeful that Peria Jerry, a former first-round pick, will develop into an interior force. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers ▸ Middle linebacker Curtis Lofton battled through knee injuries late last season and was not the enforcer he was earlier in the year. He had two knee surgeries in the offseason and started to run again in late April.

Lofton led the team in tackles for the third consecutive season and appeared headed for a Pro Bowl before his production tailed off. The Falcons are expecting a full recovery.

Sean Weatherspoon, who started as the strongside linebacker at the outset of the season, showed some promise before ankle and knee injuries relegated him to a situational role. He was able to drop in coverage, was stout against the run and came off the edge well as a blitzer.

Stephen Nicholas, who took over for Weatherspoon and played well, could be lost to free agency. The team also hopes to re-sign weakside linebacker Mike Peterson.

Reserves Spencer Adkins and Robert James will get a chance to earn some playing time, while Coy Wire will continue to serve on special teams and as a dependable backup at all three spots. **GRADE: B**

Secondary ▸ The development of Brent Grimes was the story of 2010 in the secondary. With teams electing to stay away from Dunta Robinson, Grimes saw plenty of action. He ended the season tied for the team lead with five interceptions.

Robinson came on strong after

DRAFT REPORT

Had the Falcons made a blockbuster trade up to acquire a franchise quarterback or an elite pass rusher, it would have been a lot easier to justify their actions this year. But they gave up way too much (five total picks) to take receiver **Julio Jones** with the sixth overall pick. The Falcons were lit up by the Packers in the playoffs last season because they couldn't rush the quarterback or cover opposing receivers. A lack of an impact receiver was not their problem.

At least drafting running back **Jacquizz Rodgers** in the fifth round was a smart move. Third-round selection **Akeem Dent** isn't high-regarded as a linebacker, but Atlanta might have found a future line starter in seventh-round-**Andrew Jackson.**

Rodgers

GRADE

A | **B** | C | D | F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	6	Julio Jones	WR	6-3	220	Alabama
3	27	Akeem Dent	OLB	6-1	242	Georgia
5	14	Jacquizz Rodgers	RB	5-6	196	Oregon State
6	27	Matt Bosher	P	6-1	280	Miami (Fla.)
7	7	Andrew Jackson	G	6-5	299	Fresno State
7	27	Cliff Matthews	DE	6-3	257	South Carolina

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	9-15	Pittsburgh Steelers
09/19	W	41-7	Arizona Cardinals
09/26	W	27-24	New Orleans Saints
10/03	W	16-14	San Francisco 49ers
10/10	W	20-10	Cleveland Browns
10/17	L	17-31	Philadelphia Eagles
10/24	W	39-32	Cincinnati Bengals
11/7	W	27-21	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/11	W	26-21	Baltimore Ravens
11/21	W	34-17	St. Louis Rams
11/28	W	20-17	Green Bay Packers
12/05	W	28-24	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
12/12	W	31-10	Carolina Panthers
12/19	W	34-18	Seattle Seahawks
12/27	L	14-17	New Orleans Saints
01/02	W	31-10	Carolina Panthers

WON 13, LOST 3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Turner	334	1371	4.1	55	12
Snelling	87	324	3.7	30	2
Ryan	46	122	2.7	20	0
Mughelli	13	36	2.8	6	0
Johnson	10	36	3.6	23	0
Norwood	2	8	4.0	6	0
White	1	3	3.0	3	0
Redman	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
Smith	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0
Douglas	2	-5	-5.0	-5	0
ATLANTA	**497**	**1891**	**3.8**	**55**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**366**	**1694**	**4.6**	**80**	**9**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
White	115	1389	12.1	46	10
Gonzalez	70	656	9.4	34	6
Snelling	44	303	6.9	28	3
Jenkins	41	505	12.3	43	2
Douglas	22	294	13.4	46	1
Finneran	19	166	8.7	21	3
Mughelli	13	126	9.7	18	1
Turner	12	85	7.1	19	0
Peelle	10	96	9.6	15	1
Weems	6	61	10.2	18	0
Palmer	5	29	5.8	11	1
Johnson	3	6	2.0	10	0
Norwood	1	9	9.0	9	0
ATLANTA	**361**	**3725**	**10.3**	**46**	**28**
OPPONENTS	**364**	**3625**	**10.0**	**83**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan	571	357	3705	28	9
Redman	6	4	20	0	0
ATLANTA	**577**	**361**	**3725**	**28**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**560**	**364**	**3846**	**23**	**22**

SACKS ATLANTA 31, OPPONENTS 23

Abraham 13, Babineaux 4, Biermann 3, Anderson 2, Jerry 2, Lofton 2, Davis 1, Peters 1, Peterson 1, Weatherspoon 1, Williams 1

JOE ROBBINS / GETTY IMAGES

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Redman, Chris	QB	6-3	229	7/7/77	9	Louisville
2 Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	220	5/17/85	4	Boston College
4 Wilson, John Parker	QB	6-2	218	10/17/85	2	Alabama

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
72 Baker, Sam	T	6-5	307	5/30/85	4	USC
63 Blalock, Justin	T	6-4	329	12/20/83	5	Texas
67 Bruggeman, Rob	C	6-3	288	3/21/86	1	Iowa
77 Clabo, Tyson	G	6-6	331	10/17/81	7	Wake Forest
73 Dahl, Harvey	T	6-5	305	6/24/81	5	Nevada
61 Hawley, Joe	C	6-3	297	10/22/88	2	UNLV
Jackson, Andrew	G	6-5	299	7/4/85	0	Fresno State
79 Johnson, Mike	G	6-5	312	4/2/87	2	Alabama
62 McClure, Todd	C	6-1	296	2/16/77	13	LSU
75 Reynolds, Garrett	T	6-7	317	7/1/87	3	North Carolina
74 Svitek, Will	T	6-6	309	1/8/82	6	Stanford
65 Valdez, Jose	T	6-6	324	12/13/86	1	Arkansas
82 Zelenka, Joe	LS	6-3	260	3/9/76	13	Wake Forest

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Johnson, Gartrell	RB	5-10	219	6/21/86	3	Colorado State
34 Mughelli, Ovie	FB	6-1	250	6/10/80	9	Wake Forest
32 Norwood, Jerious	RB	5-11	209	7/29/83	6	Mississippi State
Rodgers, Jacquizz	RB	5-6	196	2/6/90	0	Oregon State
35 Smith, Antone	RB	5-9	190	9/17/85	2	Florida State
44 Snelling, Jason	RB	5-11	223	12/29/83	5	Virginia
33 Turner, Michael	RB	5-10	244	2/13/82	8	Northern Illinois

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Agnone, Robert	TE	6-6	256	10/2/85	1	Delaware
Branson, Marquez	TE	6-3	248	2/14/87	1	Central Arkansas
16 Buckley, Tim	WR	6-1	185	8/19/88	1	Alcorn State
83 Douglas, Harry	WR	6-0	182	9/16/84	3	Louisville
86 Finneran, Brian	WR	6-5	210	1/31/76	11	Villanova
88 Gonzalez, Tony	TE	6-5	243	2/27/76	15	California
Harvey, Brandyn	WR	6-4	205	11/6/87	1	Villanova
12 Jenkins, Michael	WR	6-4	217	6/18/82	8	Ohio State
Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	2/3/89	0	Alabama
80 Meier, Kerry	WR	6-2	224	11/12/86	2	Kansas
81 Palmer, Michael	TE	6-5	260	1/18/88	2	Clemson
87 Peelle, Justin	TE	6-4	251	3/15/79	10	Oregon
15 Strickland, Andy	WR	6-0	197	9/2/87	1	Wofford
14 Weems, Eric	WR	5-9	194	7/4/85	4	Bethune-Cookman
84 White, Roddy	WR	6-0	212	11/2/81	7	UAB

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
55 Abraham, John	DE	6-4	263	5/6/78	12	South Carolina
98 Anderson, Jamaal	DE	6-6	289	2/6/86	5	Arkansas
95 Babineaux, Jonathan	DT	6-2	296	10/12/81	7	Iowa
92 Davis, Chauncey	DE	6-2	262	1/27/83	7	Florida State
94 Jerry, Peria	DT	6-2	294	8/23/84	3	Mississippi
93 Johnson, Thomas	DT	6-2	304	6/24/81	4	Middle Tennessee
97 Lewis, Trey	DT	6-3	316	5/23/85	4	Washburn
Matthews, Cliff	DE	6-3	257	8/5/89	0	South Carolina
91 Peters, Corey	DT	6-3	295	6/8/88	2	Kentucky
90 Sidbury, Lawrence	DE	6-3	265	2/6/86	3	Richmond
96 Stephens, Emmanuel	DE	6-3	255	2/17/87	1	Ole Miss
99 Walker, Vance	DT	6-2	307	4/26/87	3	Georgia Tech

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
36 Bush, Rafael	S	5-11	197	5/12/87	1	South Carolina State
28 DeCoud, Thomas	S	6-0	193	3/19/85	4	California
24 Franks, Dominique	CB	5-11	194	10/8/87	2	Oklahoma
20 Grimes, Brent	CB	5-10	181	7/19/83	4	Shippensburg
25 Moore, William	S	6-0	218	5/18/85	3	Missouri
21 Owens, Chris	CB	5-9	179	12/1/86	3	San Jose State
Priest, Rafael	CB	5-10	181	3/11/87	0	TCU
23 Robinson, Dunta	CB	5-10	182	4/11/82	8	South Carolina
39 Schillinger, Shann	S	6-0	202	5/22/86	2	Montana
29 Williams, Brian	CB	5-11	202	7/2/79	10	N.C. State
52 Wire, Coy	LB	6-0	225	11/7/78	10	Stanford

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Adkins, Spencer	LB	5-11	242	5/16/87	3	Miami (Fla.)
71 Biermann, Kroy	LB	6-3	260	9/12/85	4	Montana
Dent, Akeem	LB	6-1	242	9/27/87	0	Georgia
James, Robert	LB	5-11	220	12/26/83	1	Arizona State
50 Lofton, Curtis	LB	6-0	242	6/2/86	4	Oklahoma
54 Nicholas, Stephen	LB	6-3	230	5/1/83	5	South Florida
53 Peterson, Mike	LB	6-1	233	6/17/76	13	Florida
56 Weatherspoon, Sean	LB	6-1	239	12/29/87	2	Missouri
Woods, Bear	LB	6-0	245	1/22/87	1	Troy

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Bosher, Matt	P	6-1	208	10/18/87	0	Miami (Fla.)
3 Bryant, Matt	K	5-9	200	5/29/75	9	Baylor
9 Koenen, Michael	P	5-11	198	7/13/82	7	Western Washington
Parrish, Ken	P	6-2	210	6/22/84	1	East Stroudsburg

MIKE SMITH, Head coach

Mike Mularkey, offensive coordinator; **Brian Van Gorder**, defensive coordinator; **Keith Armstrong**, special teams coordinator; **Paul Boudreau**, offensive line; **Gerald Brown**, running backs; **Paul Dunn**, assistant offensive line; **Ray Hamilton**, defensive line; **Tim Lewis**, secondary; **Glenn Pires**, linebackers; **Alvin Reynolds**, defensive backs; **Terry Robiskie**, wide receivers; **Bob Bratkowski**, quarterbacks; **Chris Scelfo**, tight ends; **Eric Sutulovich**, assistant special teams

FALCONS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Rolland Lawrence (1973-80)	39	2	Ray Brown (1971-77)	31
3t	Ray Buchanan (1971-2003)	30	3t	Scott Case (1984-94)	30

INSIDE THE HEADSET

MIKE SMITH

Smith appears ready to open up the offense. The team has managed quarterback Matt Ryan up to this point, but it wants to loosen the reins with the hopes that it will bring on more explosive plays. Smith believes that amassing more big plays is just like winning the turnover battle. It's a key indicator of success.

making an adjustment in technique and style. He played more man-to-man coverage in Houston and it took some time to get acclimated to the Falcons' zone-heavy system.

The Falcons appear to have found a strong safety in William Moore, a second-round pick in 2009 who battled through injuries last year. He adds an intimidation factor to the unit. Free safety Thomas DeCoud has striking ability and good range.

The problem spot is nickel back, where Chris Owens will face a challenge from Dominique Franks. After developing Grimes, the coaches are confident they can bring Owens and Franks up to NFL speed, too. **GRADE: C+**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The fearless Weems turned into a force as a return man last season. He had a playoff-record 102-yard kickoff return in the playoff loss to Green Bay. Weems made the Pro Bowl after finishing the regular season with 1,100 return yards and an NFC-high 27.5-yard average. He became the only player in Falcons history with a punt and kick return for a touchdown in the same season.

Matt Bryant, who turned 36 in May, was automatic last season as he nailed 28 of 31 field goal attempts, including game-winners against New Orleans and San Francisco.

Punter Michael Koenen doesn't get Pro Bowl consideration because he can't amass a high average per punt. But it's not his fault, as he's been instructed to directional punt. His focus is hang time in order to allow the units to get downfield and cover his punts. His ability to punt to spots and also serve as the team's kickoff specialist makes him invaluable. **GRADE: A**

BOTTOM LINE

With the continued development of Ryan and the addition of Jones and Rodgers, Atlanta's offense looks to be even better than last season. The threat of Turner, Jones and White streaming down the field and Gonzalez working underneath should allow Mularkey to mix things up.

The pass defense must improve, along with the sack total. It will be important to watch the development of the linebackers and the nickel back. If the Falcons can shore up those areas, a deep playoff run could be in store.

90
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

2

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK **10-6**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Josh Freeman Josh Johnson
FB	Earnest Graham Erik Lorig
RB	LeGarrette Blount Cadillac Williams
LT	Donald Penn Demar Dotson
LG	Ted Larsen Jeremy Zuttah
C	Jeff Faine Jeremy Zuttah
RG	Davin Joseph Derek Hardman
RT	James Lee Jeremy Trueblood
TE	Kellen Winslow Luke Stocker
WR	Arrelious Benn Sammie Stroughter
WR	Mike Williams Micheal Spurlock
DEFENSE	
DE	Kyle Moore Da'Quan Bowers
DT	Gerald McCoy Brian Price
DT	Roy Miller Frank Okam
DE	Adrian Clayborn Michael Bennett
SLB	Quincy Black Dekoda Watson
MLB	Barrett Ruud Adam Hayward
WLB	Geno Hayes Mason Foster
LCB	Aqib Talib E.J. Biggers
SS	Sean Jones Larry Asante
FS	Tanard Jackson Cody Grimm
RCB	Ronde Barber Myron Lewis
SPECIALISTS	
K	Connor Barth
P	Robert Malone
KR	Micheal Spurlock
PR	Micheal Spurlock
LS	Andrew Economos

Bucs ready to rise and stake their claim as playoff contender

By Roy Cummings *Tampa Tribune*

One thing you can say with certainty about Buccaneers owner Malcolm Glazer and his sons, Joel and Bryan: They sure know how to pick a coach.

The Glazers started their tenure as owners by hiring Tony Dungy, followed that with Jon Gruden and now they're on to Raheem Morris, who, after just two years at the helm, is already drawing comparison with Dungy for the way he turned the franchise back into a playoff contender.

If Morris can stay on track, he may eventually reach the heights of what Gruden did while at Tampa Bay: win a Super Bowl.

OFFENSE

Tampa Bay's offense is based mostly on West Coast principles and a strong desire to bludgeon the defense with a steady diet of power rushes. The hope is that by delivering mostly short throws and consistently running between the tackles, it will lure an eighth or maybe even ninth defender into the box and create the opportunity for quarterback Josh Freeman to hit on a big play downfield. The architect of all this is coordinator Greg Olson, who's as daring a play-caller as there is in the league.

Quarterbacks ➤ Freeman has yet to fully establish himself as a franchise quarterback, but he sure played like one in his first full season as a starter last year, particularly down the stretch.

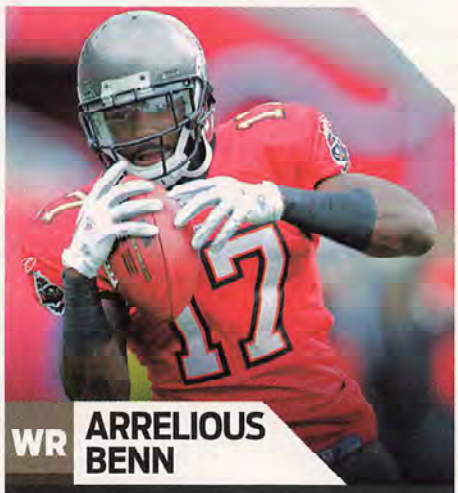
The third-year pro out of Kansas State completed 63.6 percent of his passes, including 15 for touchdowns, and threw just one interception during an eight-game stretch to close the season, and has the necessary skills to produce along those lines for an entire year. He's a true leader, the kind who isn't afraid to put in the extra work necessary to become an elite-level player. Best of all, Freeman is one of those players who is seemingly at his best in the clutch.

Josh Johnson is a fourth-year pro who has a role that goes far beyond holding a clipboard and running the scout team in practice. Occasionally he will come in for a play or two and run the Wildcat offense, which gives the opposing defense a different look. **GRADE: B**

Running backs ➤ The Bucs made one of their typically low-risk, high-reward wagers when they claimed LeGarrette Blount off waivers from the Titans and, like a lot of their wagers last year, it paid off handsomely. Blount quickly proved to be the epitome of what Tampa Bay is looking for in a power back.

The league's leading rusher among rookies last year, the 6-0, 247-pound Blount has the strength to barrel through would-be tacklers for extra yards after contact, but there's more to his game than that. Though he doesn't have breakaway speed, Blount does possess the athleticism necessary to leap (and often embarrass) defenders in a single bound.

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



WR ARRELIOUS BENN

With defenses now having to concentrate on Mike Williams, Benn will become a prime target for Josh Freeman. A second-round pick in 2010, Benn's ability to make tough catches in traffic should turn him into a big weapon.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 10-6 HOME: 4-4

- **ONLINE:** www.buccaneers.com
- **STADIUM:** Raymond James Stadium

Capacity: 65,657 **Turf:** Grass

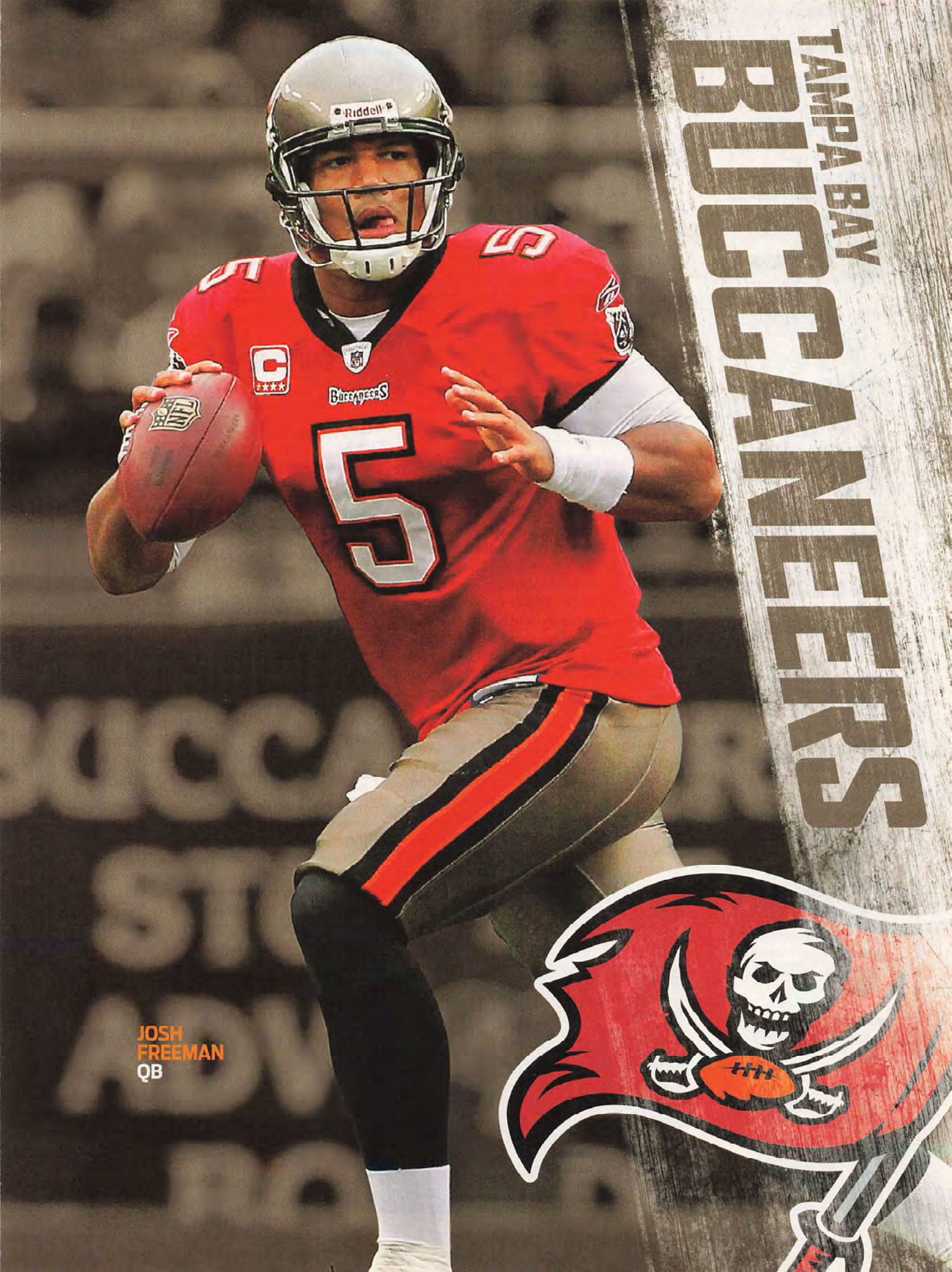
Tickets: 813-879-2827

- **TRAINING CAMP:** One Buc Place, Tampa; 813-870-2700

BUCCANEERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	**Ronde Barber** *(1997-present)*	40	2	**Donnie Abraham** *(1996-2001)*	31	3	**Cedric Brown** *(1976-84)*	29

ICON SMI; OPPOSITE: CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI


TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS
JOSH
FREEMAN
QB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	DETROIT	SEPT. 11 1:00	W / L
WEEK 2	@ MINNESOTA	SEPT. 18 1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	ATLANTA	SEPT. 25 4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	INDIANAPOLIS	OCT. 3 8:30	W / L
WEEK 5	@ SAN FRANCISCO	OCT. 9 4:05	W / L
WEEK 6	NEW ORLEANS	OCT. 16 4:15	W / L
WEEK 7	CHICAGO*	OCT. 23 1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	OPEN		
WEEK 9	@ NEW ORLEANS	NOV. 6 1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	HOUSTON	NOV. 13 1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ GREEN BAY	NOV. 20 1:00	W / L
WEEK 12	@ TENNESSEE	NOV. 27 1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	CAROLINA	DEC. 4 1:00	W / L
WEEK 14	@ JACKSONVILLE	DEC. 11 1:00	W / L
WEEK 15	DALLAS	DEC. 17 8:20	W / L
WEEK 16	@ CAROLINA	DEC. 24 1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	@ ATLANTA	JAN. 1 1:00	W / L

SCORE

*In London

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

One of the reasons the Bucs feel a need to lean more on Blount this year is because Cadillac Williams has found his niche as a third-down specialist and Kareem Huggins is coming off major reconstructive knee surgery.

The Bucs also have Earnest Graham in reserve, but he has consistently struggled to stay healthy and may be needed more at fullback, where the ranks are thin. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ Tampa Bay raised a lot of eyebrows when it spent a fourth-round draft pick on Syracuse receiver Mike Williams last year. All he did in return was lead NFL rookies in pass receptions and receiving yards.

Determined to prove he was mostly a victim of circumstance and not the troublemaker many scouts pegged him to be, Williams not only erased concerns about his character but quickly established himself as Freeman's go-to wideout. It was so quick, in fact, that second-round pick Arrelious Benn looked like a slow learner by comparison. However, opponents are learning fast that Williams and Benn are both forces to be reckoned with. Like slot receiver Sammie Stroughter, they are exceptional route-runners who have the strength to make tough catches in high-traffic zones.

Along with tight end Kellen Winslow, who led the team in receptions for the second straight season, the Bucs have four solid options for Freeman to work with, and there's plenty of talent in reserve. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸ This is a veteran unit, one that boasts Pro Bowlers at left tackle (Donald Penn) and right guard (Davin Joseph) and a center (Jeff Faine) who's as solid and nasty as they come.

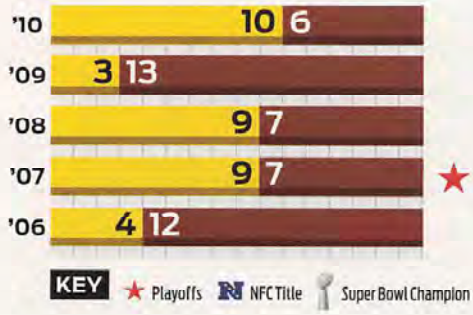
The situation at left guard and right tackle isn't bad, either. Ted Larsen has finally filled the hole that opened when left guard Arron Sears left the team two years ago and there are now two starting-caliber players at right tackle. One of them is longstanding starter Jeremy Trueblood. The other is James Lee, who took over for an injured Trueblood after six weeks last year and was so sound that he kept the job even after Trueblood returned.

Joseph is a restricted free agent, but the club acknowledged that re-signing him was a priority once a new collective bargaining agreement was signed. The most notable of the backups is fourth-year pro Jeremy Zuttah, who plays each of the three interior positions and has several games of starting experience at each one. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

Morris took on the added role of defensive coordinator last year and immediately started implementing a system that is unique in the NFL. Though it's clearly based on the old Tampa 2 principles he was raised on by mentor and former coordinator Monte Kiffin, Morris's scheme

5-YEAR RECORD: 35-45



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Buccaneers)

"I think, first of all, (coach) Raheem Morris has done a great job with that team. He's got those guys playing hard for him all the time, and that's critical. If your players want to play for you, play hard for you, you'll eventually get the results, because then it's just a matter of refining the talent. And they have a lot of good, young talent there. The quarterback, (Josh) Freeman, is special, and any time you've got yourself a quarterback like that, you've got a chance to be pretty good. I like their receivers and that obviously makes Freeman better, and so does the running game, which they seem to have now that (LeGarrette Blount) is there. ...

"On defense, they're a little thin up front. They need to get that going, but their linebackers make plays and they've got some good talent in the secondary. They're on the right path. There's still some work to do there, but I like the direction they're going in and the way they're doing it."

FANTASY SPIN

Mike Williams and LeGarrette Blount combined for 1,985 yards and 17 touchdowns as rookies and should play even more prominent roles in the Bucs' emerging offense this season.

BUY

Kellen Winslow

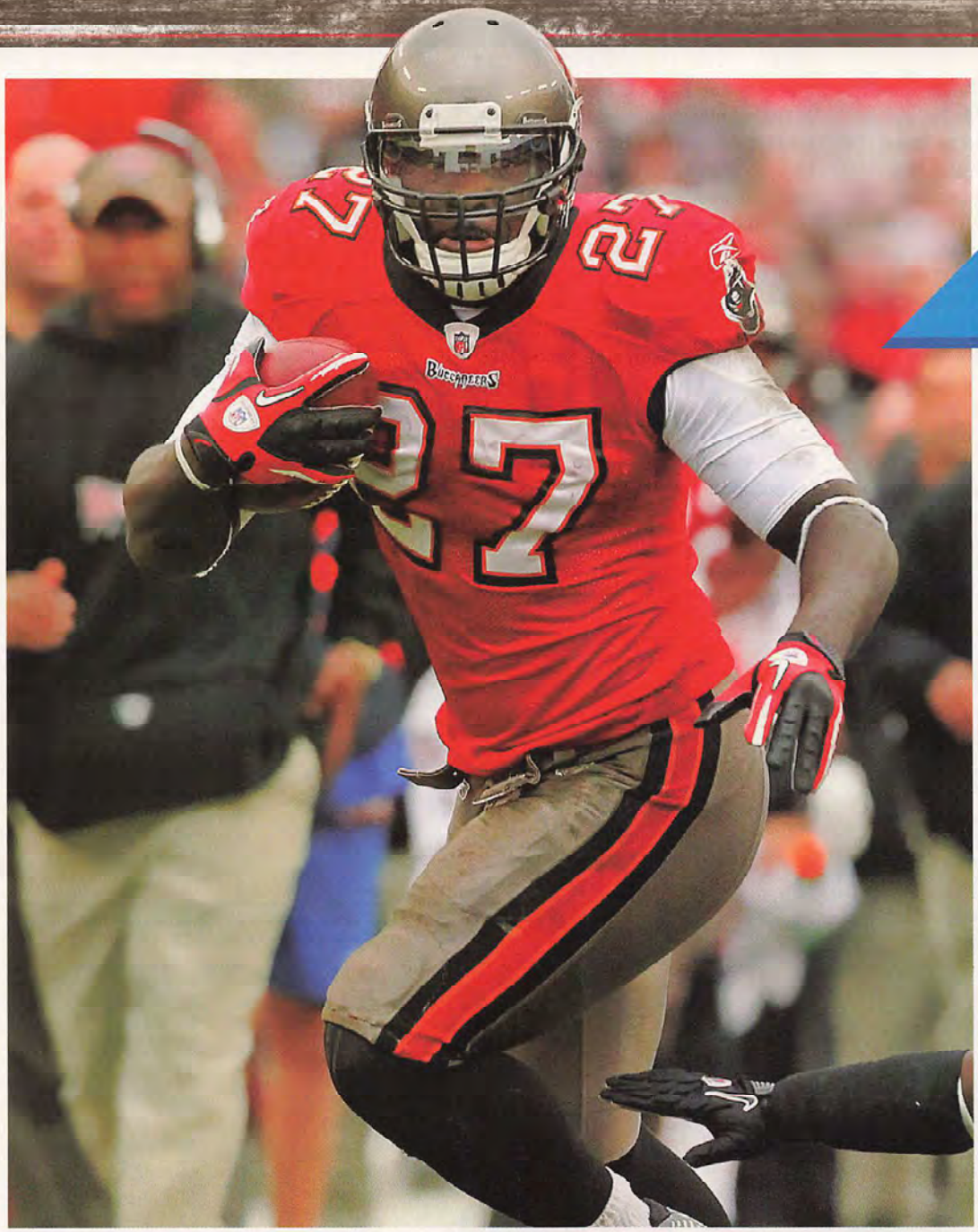
SELL

Cadillac Williams

SLEEPER

Josh Freeman

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

LeGARRETTE BLOUNT

"Everyone sees the size and the power, but the thing that constantly amazes me about him is his athleticism. You just don't see guys his size with that much athleticism. I mean, the leaps and the jumps over people, that's phenomenal. That's what makes him special. He's done a great job bouncing back from that incident in college where he punched the Boise State kid (Byron Hout) after the game. That was very unfortunate and it really cost him in the draft, but he's put it behind him and he's starting create a different image for himself. That's not easy to do. ...

"I think going forward, the thing he'll need to get better at is catching the ball and blocking. Like a lot of kids just coming out of college—and he's one who missed most of his senior year—he's just not that experienced at those things. But he'll get better."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	335.1	19
Rushing	125.1	8
Passing	210.1	17
Scoring	341	20
Punt Returns	6.4	30
Kick Returns	24.3	7t
Red Zone TD %	52.3	16
Total Defense	332.7	17
Against Rush	131.7	28
Against Pass	201.0	7
Points Allowed	318	9
Interceptions	19	8t
Sacks	26	30t
Turnover Diff.	9	5

has been dubbed the "Tampa 2.1" because of all its innovations and quirks.

The Tampa 2.1 calls for more blitzes, man coverages and odd fronts than the old Tampa 2. It's still a one-gap scheme designed to confuse and ultimately pressure the passer with just four rushers. The difference is that you never know who those four rushers are going to be.

Defensive line ▸ Coming off a season in which they recorded just 26 sacks—two fewer than the year before—this remains the weakest link in what was once a formidable defense. There is reason to believe, however, that this unit's vulnerable underbelly will soon round itself back into shape.

During the past two drafts, Tampa Bay has completely rebuilt this unit, adding tackles Gerald McCoy and Brian Price in the first two rounds in 2010 and ends Adrian Clayborn and Da'Quan Bowers in the opening couple this year. With a foursome like that, the Bucs believe someone will break free and get to the quarterback on a more regular basis.

McCoy is the best bet to be that guy, at least early on. He was brought in to give the team another Warren Sapp-like presence, and was starting to do that before going down with a season-ending biceps injury last December. With his biceps healed and Clayborn working off the right edge, McCoy could be in for a breakout season.

Having had surgery in January to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee, the Bucs aren't sure when Bowers will return to the field. They are confident

he'll be back this season, but whether he can be the 15.5-sack type he was as a junior at Clemson is hard to know.

With all the injury concerns, the Bucs need some quality depth and seem to have it with ends Kyle Moore, Tim Crowder and Michael Bennett and tackles Roy Miller and Alex Magee. All have starting experience. **GRADE: C+**

Linebackers ➤ Middle linebacker Barrett Ruud could become even more of an impact player if the Bucs continue to expand their scheme and Ruud's role in it, but with up-and-coming young playmakers such as Quincy Black and Geno Hayes on both sides of him, there may not be a need for that.

Black is the team's strongside 'backer, and plays the position like no one in Tampa ever has before. Quick and athletic, Black is heavily involved in the team's expanded blitz package, and is just as likely to make a tackle as he is to direct one toward the middle and weakside linebackers.

On the weak side, there are times when the 6-1, 226-pound Hayes plays with such passion and skill that he makes you forget he replaced Derrick Brooks.

The top backups are second-year pro Dekoda Watson and rookie Mason Foster, and the former may not be a backup for long. Watson was impressive during his time filling in when Black was injured. **GRADE: C+**

Secondary ➤ The seemingly ageless Ronde Barber decided early in the offseason to come back for another year and it's a good thing, because the Bucs are going to need his veteran savvy and

DRAFT REPORT

The Buccaneers get a high grade for drafting this year, as they found two talented defensive linemen in the first and second rounds with right end **Adrian Clayborn** and left end **Da'Quan Bowers**. Although Bowers comes in with a knee injury and may have to miss some time, he'll be special when he does start contributing.

Tampa Bay also found a starting linebacker in **Mason Foster**, and later moved up to select tight end **Luke Stocker**, who will play behind Kellen Winslow. Safety **Ahmad Black** fell to the Bucs in Round 5, but projects as a starter down the road. **Allen Bradford** will pair with LeGarrette Blount in the offensive backfield. Expect to see him play this season. **Anthony Gaitor** (cornerback) and **Daniel Hardy** (tight end) will compete for backup spots.

GRADE A- (A | A- | B | C | D | F)

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	20	Adrian Clayborn	DE	6-3	281	Iowa
2	19	Da'Quan Bowers	DE	6-3	280	Clemson
3	20	Mason Foster	OLB	6-1	245	Washington
4	7	Luke Stocker	TE	6-5	258	Tennessee
5	20	Ahmad Black	SS	5-9	183	Florida
6	22	Allen Bradford	RB	6-0	242	USC
7	19	Anthony Gaitor	CB	5-10	175	Florida International
7	35	Daniel Hardy	WR	6-4	249	Idaho

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
39336	W	17-14	Cleveland Browns
09/19	W	20-7	Carolina Panthers
09/26	L	13-38	Pittsburgh Steelers
10/10	W	24-21	Cincinnati Bengals
10/17	L	6-31	New Orleans Saints
10/24	W	18-17	St. Louis Rams
10/31	W	38-35	Arizona Cardinals
11/07	L	21-27	Atlanta Falcons
11/14	W	31-16	Carolina Panthers
11/21	W	21-0	San Francisco 49ers
11/28	L	10-17	Baltimore Ravens
12/05	L	24-28	Atlanta Falcons
12/12	W	17-16	Washington Redskins
12/19	L	20-23	Detroit Lions
12/26	W	38-15	Seattle Seahawks
01/02	W	23-13	New Orleans Saints

WON 10, LOST 6

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Blount	201	1007	5.0	53	6
C. Williams	125	437	3.5	45	2
Freeman	68	364	5.4	33	0
Graham	20	99	5.0	61	1
Johnson	4	39	9.8	14	0
Benn	6	35	5.8	17	0
Huggins	4	11	2.8	7	0
Parker	1	7	7.0	7	0
Stroughter	1	2	2.0	2	0
Lumpkin	1	0	0.0	0	0
TAMPA BAY	**431**	**2001**	**4.6**	**61**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**444**	**2107**	**4.7**	**54**	**12**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Winslow	66	730	11.1	41	5
M. Williams	65	964	14.8	58	11
C. Williams	46	355	7.7	20	1
Benn	25	395	15.8	64	2
Stroughter	24	239	10.0	27	0
Spurlock	17	250	14.7	43	2
Graham	16	130	8.1	46	1
Gilmore	13	160	12.3	30	1
Stovall	7	81	11.6	38	1
Briscoe	6	93	15.5	54	1
Blount	5	14	2.8	7	0
Purvis	5	38	7.6	12	0
Parker	4	42	10.5	21	0
Stevens	3	43	14.3	22	0
Huggins	1	7	7.0	7	0
Lumpkin	1	12	12.0	12	0
Lorig	1	10	10.0	10	0
Penn	1	1	1.0	1	1
TAMPA BAY	**306**	**3564**	**11.6**	**64**	**26**
OPPONENTS	**307**	**3216**	**10.5**	**65**	**23**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Freeman	474	291	3451	25	6
Johnson	16	14	111	0	0
Graham	1	1	2	1	0
Spurlock	3	0	0	0	0
TAMPA BAY	**494**	**306**	**3564**	**26**	**6**
OPPONENTS	**521**	**307**	**3359**	**23**	**19**

SACKS TAMPA BAY 26, OPPONENTS 30

White 4.5, Hayes 4, Crowder 3, McCoy 3, Black 2, Magee 2, Ruud 2, Barber 1, Bennett 1, Hayward 1, Jones 1, Miller 1, Woods 0.5

JERRY LAI / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
12 Carpenter, Rudy	QB	6-2	212	4/15/86	3	Arizona State
5 Freeman, Josh	QB	6-6	248	1/13/88	3	Kansas State
11 Johnson, Josh	QB	6-3	205	5/15/86	4	San Diego

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
61 Barker, Will	T	6-7	320	7/3/87	2	Virginia
60 Carter, Brandon	G	6-6	319	9/10/86	1	Texas Tech
Dile, Marc	T	6-4	300	5/5/86	1	South Florida
69 Dotson, Demar	T	6-9	315	10/11/85	3	Southern Mississippi
48 Economos, Andrew	C	6-1	250	6/24/82	6	Georgia Tech
52 Faine, Jeff	C	6-3	291	4/6/81	9	Notre Dame
73 Hardman, Derek	T	6-6	300	9/13/86	2	Eastern Kentucky
75 Joseph, Davin	G	6-3	313	11/22/83	6	Oklahoma
62 Larsen, Ted	C	6-2	305	6/13/87	2	N.C. State
77 Lee, James	G	6-4	305	8/17/85	4	South Carolina State
Maleckl, John	G	6-2	298	5/26/88	1	Pittsburgh
70 Penn, Donald	T	6-5	305	4/27/83	6	Utah State
65 Trueblood, Jeremy	T	6-8	320	5/10/83	6	Boston College
76 Zuttah, Jeremy	G	6-4	308	6/1/86	4	Rutgers

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
27 Blount, LeGarrette	RB	6-0	247	12/5/86	2	Oregon
Bradford, Allen	RB	6-0	242	8/31/88	0	USC
34 Graham, Earnest	RB	5-9	225	1/15/80	8	Florida
32 Huggins, Kareem	RB	5-9	198	5/24/86	2	Hofstra
28 Lumpkin, Kregg	RB	5-11	228	5/15/84	3	Georgia
Taylor, Rendrick	RB	6-2	265	4/3/87	1	Clemson
24 Williams, Cadillac	RB	5-11	217	4/21/82	7	Auburn

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
17 Benn, Arrelious	WR	6-1	220	9/8/88	2	Illinois
89 Briscoe, Dezmon	WR	6-2	207	8/31/89	1	Kansas
15 Gant, Ed	WR	6-3	200	1/24/87	1	North Alabama
88 Gilmore, John	TE	6-5	257	9/21/79	10	Penn State
Hardy, Daniel	TE	6-4	249	9/7/87	0	Idaho
84 Overbay, Nathan	TE	6-5	270	1/4/87	1	Eastern Washington
87 Parker, Preston	WR	6-0	200	2/13/87	2	North Alabama
80 Purvis, Ryan	TE	6-4	260	5/8/86	2	Boston College
81 Spurlock, Micheal	WR	5-11	200	1/31/83	4	Ole Miss
Stocker, Luke	TE	6-5	258	7/17/88	0	Tennessee
85 Stovall, Maurice	WR	6-5	220	2/21/85	6	Notre Dame
18 Stroughter, Sammie	WR	5-10	189	1/3/86	3	Oregon State
19 Williams, Mike	WR	6-1	212	5/18/87	2	Syracuse
82 Winslow, Kellen	TE	6-4	240	7/21/83	8	Miami (Fla.)

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
71 Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	11/13/85	3	Texas A&M
Bowers, Da'Quan	DE	6-3	280	2/23/90	0	Clemson
Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	281	7/6/88	0	Iowa
96 Crowder, Tim	DE	6-4	260	6/30/85	5	Texas
72 Gilbeaux, Brandon	DE	6-3	270	6/9/87	2	Delaware
67 Johnson, George	DE	6-4	265	12/11/87	1	Rutgers
44 Lorig, Erik	DE	6-4	275	11/17/86	2	Stanford
97 Magee, Alex	DT	6-3	298	4/28/87	3	Purdue
93 McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	295	2/25/88	2	Oklahoma
90 Miller, Roy	DT	6-2	310	7/9/87	3	Texas
94 Moore, Kyle	DE	6-5	272	10/25/86	3	USC
78 Okam, Frank	DT	6-5	350	10/16/85	4	Texas
92 Price, Brian	DT	6-1	303	4/10/89	2	UCLA
91 White, Stylez G.	DE	6-3	270	7/25/79	5	Minnesota
78 Wilson, E.J.	DE	6-3	289	10/28/87	2	North Carolina
95 Woods, Al	DT	6-4	309	3/25/87	2	LSU
79 Worthington, Doug	DT	6-5	292	8/10/87	1	Ohio State

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
45 Anderson, Vince	S	6-2	205	12/8/84	1	Webber Intl. (Fla.)
22 Asante, Larry	S	6-0	210	3/7/88	1	Nebraska
20 Barber, Ronde	CB	5-10	184	4/7/75	15	Virginia
31 Biggers, E.J.	CB	6-0	180	6/13/87	3	Western Michigan
Black, Ahmad	S	5-9	183	12/12/89	0	Florida
Gaitor, Anthony	CB	5-10	175	10/9/88	0	Florida International
21 Harris, Dominique	S	6-2	213	4/14/87	1	Temple
36 Jackson, Tanard	S	6-0	200	7/21/85	4	Syracuse
29 Johnson, DJ	CB	6-1	191	11/7/85	3	Jackson State
26 Jones, Sean	S	6-1	220	3/2/82	8	Georgia
23 Lewis, Myron	CB	6-2	203	11/24/87	2	Vanderbilt
41 Lynch, Corey	S	6-0	206	5/7/85	4	Appalachian State
33 Mack, Elbert	CB	5-10	175	7/14/86	4	Troy
25 Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	205	2/13/86	4	Kansas

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
58 Black, Quincy	LB	6-2	240	2/28/84	5	New Mexico
Folsom, J.D.	LB	6-3	230	8/19/84	1	Weber State
Foster, Mason	LB	6-1	245	3/1/89	0	Washington
35 Grimm, Cody	LB	6-1	203	2/26/87	2	Virginia Tech
54 Hayes, Geno	LB	6-1	226	8/10/87	4	Florida State
57 Hayward, Adam	LB	6-1	240	6/23/84	5	Portland State
53 Koutouvides, Niko	LB	6-2	238	3/25/81	8	Purdue
Lawrence, Simoni	LB	6-1	221	2/1/89	1	Minnesota
50 McKenzie, Tyrone	LB	6-2	245	12/11/85	2	South Florida
51 Ruud, Barrett	LB	6-2	241	5/20/83	7	Nebraska
56 Watson, Dekoda	LB	6-1	240	3/3/88	2	Florida State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Barth, Connor	K	5-11	193	4/11/86	4	North Carolina
1 Malone, Robert	P	6-1	215	2/4/88	2	Fresno State

RAHEEM MORRIS, Head coach

Greg Olson, offensive coordinator; **Dwayne Stukes,** special teams coordinator; **Joe Baker,** linebackers; **Tim Berbenich,** asst. wide receivers; **Tim Holt,** asst. offensive line; **Jimmy Lake,** defensive backs; **Steve Logan,** running backs; **Keith Millard,** defensive line; **Pat Morris,** offensive line; **Alfredo Roberts,** tight ends; **Byron Storer,** asst. special teams; **Grady Stretz,** defensive line; **Alex Van Pelt,** quarterbacks; **Eric Yarber,** wide receivers

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

RAHEEM MORRIS

Morris is a young coach with some old-school principles. He's all about setting up the pass through the run on offense and getting after the passer on defense. Morris doesn't mess with the offense much, but he's constantly tweaking his defense. The result is a unique scheme that's a blend of several concepts and principles.

leadership.

The team faces the strong possibility of having to begin the season without starting free safety Tanard Jackson and starting left cornerback Aqib Talib, both of whom are dealing with fallout from off-field problems.

Jackson still has four games to serve on a one-year suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy, while Talib could face disciplinary action for his role in a March shooting incident in Garland, Texas.

Rookie seventh-rounder Cody Grimm stepped in for Jackson and quickly established himself as a solid replacement. Tampa Bay believes he has the instincts to continue to play at a high level alongside strong safety Sean Jones. The Bucs were also happy with what they got from E.J. Biggers after Talib was lost to a hip injury down the stretch last year.

Pushing Biggers will be 2010 third-round pick Myron Lewis. Slow to develop last year, he was pressed into action after Talib went down and seldom looked out of place in the role of a third corner. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Return specialists Sammie Stroughter, Micheal Spurlock and Preston Parker will get a chance to redeem themselves this year, while Robert Malone will be looking to improve on a rookie performance that saw the Bucs rank 27th in the league in net punting. What worries the team most about Malone is that he has yet to prove he can consistently punt his team when backed up in its own territory. Until he does, Tampa Bay will be on the lookout for upgrades.

One area no upgrade is needed at is kicker, where Connor Barth has proved to be consistent and capable in the clutch. Barth was perfect inside of 40 yards and had a field goal of 53 last year, and the Bucs believe he'll develop into one of the better kickers in the league. **GRADE: C-**

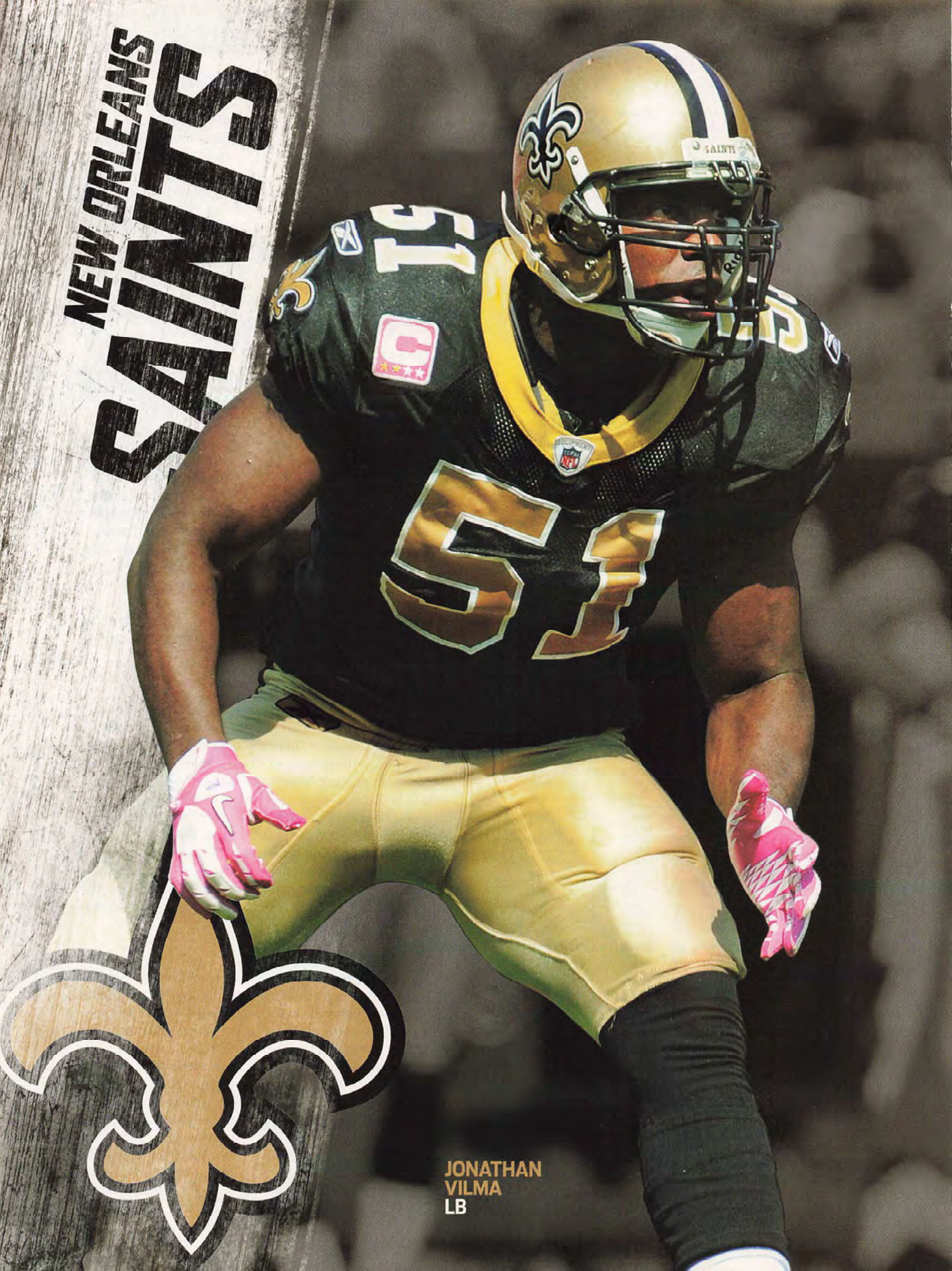
BOTTOM LINE

This is the third year of a massive rebuilding project, and it's safe to say Tampa Bay is ahead of schedule. The trick now is to stay that way, but it won't be easy. The Bucs are still one of the youngest teams in the league and won't have the luxury of sneaking up on anyone in 2011.

If the Bucs can get some improvement from their young players on defense, they should lessen the load on the offense and have the postseason in their sights. Don't look for Tampa Bay to win the NFC South, but a wild-card bid is a strong likelihood.

89
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP


NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS
51
JONATHAN
VILMA
LB

Behind Brees & Co., Saints out to prove it's their time again

By Mike Triplett *New Orleans Times-Picayune*

For the second straight year, the Saints ended their season by doing the unthinkable.

In 2009, it was a Super Bowl championship. In 2010, it was a first-round playoff loss to a Seahawks team that finished the regular season with a losing record.

That latter result should bode well for 2011, though. Instead of worrying about a Super Bowl hangover, the Saints are now champing at the bit to get back on the field.

They've still got one of the best NFL quarterbacks in Drew Brees, one of the best offensive minds in coach Sean Payton and one of the best defensive coordinators in Gregg Williams. They also have the same nucleus that got off to a 13-0 start en route to that Super Bowl championship.

The Saints still believe in the motto they established last year, "Our Time," and will be eager to prove they weren't a one-hit wonder.

OFFENSE

The Saints' run game was decimated by injuries in 2010, which turned them into a one-dimensional team. They were down to their eighth tailback of the season by the end of the playoffs. But they're hoping the addition of rookie Mark Ingram and renewed health can help fix that.

If the Saints find some balance and consistency, they can return to being the NFL's top offense. Payton is one of the game's masterminds, and he has plenty of talent at his disposal, including emerging youngsters Ingram, Jimmy Graham and Chris Ivory.

Quarterbacks ▸ Brees earned his place alongside Peyton Manning and Tom Brady in the NFL's top tier of quarterbacks during the Saints' Super Bowl run, but his performance dropped off in 2010. For one, he was trying to do too much for an unbalanced offense. Brees also suffered a sprained MCL during the middle of the season.

A rejuvenated Brees, who is still in his prime at 32 years old, should once again be as valuable as any player in the NFL. He has terrific vision, instincts and accuracy; a stronger arm than people think; and a deep assortment of weapons around him.

Like most teams, the Saints would be in trouble without Brees. They've been developing third-year pro Chase Daniel as his backup and like his skill set. But Daniel is still inexperienced and unproven. **GRADE: A**

Running backs ▸ After being depleted by injuries in 2010, the Saints are suddenly well-stocked at this position. They made a big draft-day trade to land Ingram, who could quickly emerge as their lead runner in a timeshare with veteran Pierre Thomas and promising second-year pro Chris Ivory. The team will also bring back Reggie Bush if they can agree on a new contract.

Ingram was the top tailback in this year's draft, and has drawn comparisons

2010 RECORD

OVERALL:11-5 HOME: 5-3

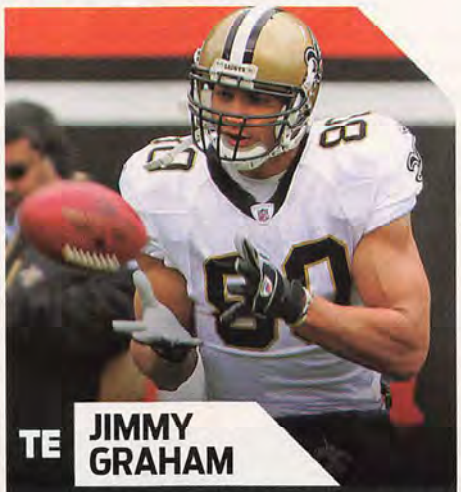
- **ONLINE:** www.neworleanssaints.com
- **STADIUM:** Louisiana Superdome

Capacity: 72,968 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 504-731-1700

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Saints Practice Facility, Metairie, La.; 504-731-1804

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



TE JIMMY GRAHAM

The sky is the limit for Graham, a former ACC basketball player who has shown the potential to become the next Antonio Gates. Graham caught four touchdown passes over the final three games of his rookie season, and he could total double-digit touchdowns in Year 2.

SAINTS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Dave Waymer *(1980-89)*	37	2	Tom Myers *(1972-81)*	36	3	Sammy Knight *(1997-2002)*	28

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK 9-7

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

	OFFENSE
QB	Drew Brees Chase Daniel
FB	Heath Evans David Thomas
RB	Pierre Thomas Mark Ingram
LT	Jermon Bushrod Charles Brown
LG	Carl Nicks Matt Tennant
C	Jonathan Goodwin Matt Tennant
RG	Jahri Evans Matt Tennant
RT	Jon Stinchcomb Zach Strief
TE	Jimmy Graham David Thomas
WR	Marques Colston Devery Henderson
WR	Lance Moore Robert Meachem
	DEFENSE
DE	Will Smith Jeff Charleston
DT	Sedrick Ellis Anthony Hargrove
NT	Shaun Rogers Remi Ayodele
DE	Alex Brown Cameron Jordan
SLB	Jo-Lonn Dunbar Martez Wilson
MLB	Jonathan Vilma Marvin Mitchell
WLB	Scott Shanle Jonathan Casillas
LCB	Jabari Greer Patrick Robinson
SS	Roman Harper Pierson Prioleau
FS	Malcolm Jenkins Darren Sharper
RCB	Tracy Porter Randall Gay
K	Garrett Hartley
P	Thomas Morstead
KR	Courtney Roby
PR	Reggie Bush
LS	Justin Drescher

D. JAY TALBOTT / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE: AL MESSERSCHMIDT / GETTY IMAGES

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ GREEN BAY	SEPT. 8	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	CHICAGO	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	HOUSTON	SEPT. 25	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	@ JACKSONVILLE	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	@ CAROLINA	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 6	@ TAMPA BAY	OCT. 16	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 7	INDIANAPOLIS	OCT. 23	8:20	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	@ ST. LOUIS	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	TAMPA BAY	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ ATLANTA	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	OPEN			
WEEK 12	N.Y. GIANTS	NOV. 28	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	DETROIT	DEC. 4	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	@ TENNESSEE	DEC. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	@ MINNESOTA	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	ATLANTA	DEC. 26	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	CAROLINA	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

to Emmitt Smith because of his size (5-9, 215 pounds) and running style. The Saints won't put such lofty expectations on him, but he does have the makeup of an every-down back with speed and power, plus the ability to pass block and catch passes out of the backfield.

The Saints re-signed Thomas before the lockout, and he has the skills to be a bona fide No. 1 tailback when healthy. But he's spending the offseason recovering from ankle surgery after injury-plagued campaign in 2010.

Bush has dealt with nagging injuries his entire career, including a broken leg that wiped out most of his 2010 season. That's a big reason why he entered the offseason in contract limbo. When healthy, Bush remains a valued weapon for the Saints because of his big-play ability and versatility as a runner and receiver.

Ivory emerged as a power running asset after being undrafted out of Division II Tiffin in 2010. But he, too, struggled with injuries. The Saints are hoping the 6-0, 222-pound Ivory can learn to manage his body better so he can become a part of their offense on first and second downs and in short-yardage situations. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers ▸ The Saints have one of the deepest and most versatile receiving corps in the league, and Brees loves to spread the ball around. The newest weapon is Graham, a former University of Miami basketball player who emerged toward the end of the season as a playmaker. Graham's emergence caused the Saints to release veteran Jeremy Shockey in the offseason. Graham has great speed and athleticism for his size, which makes him a matchup problem for defenses.

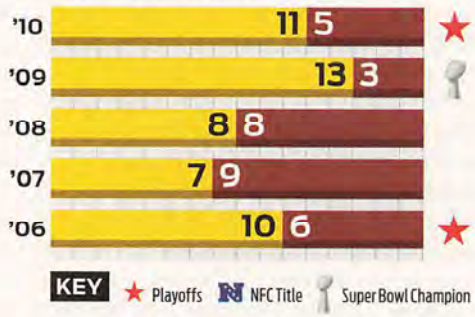
Marques Colston is the closest thing the Saints have to a No. 1 receiver. He creates matchup problems against smaller defensive backs and is a go-to guy on third downs and in the red zone.

Fellow veteran Lance Moore is an undersized and underrated weapon. Fifth-year pro Robert Meachem has shown game-breaking ability in the past, but nagging injuries have slowed his growth. The Saints' most experienced receiver, Devery Henderson, was starting to take on a lesser role at the end of last season, though he remains a trusted target, especially down the field. **GRADE: B**

Offensive line ▸ This group was one of the NFL's best in 2009, and has sent four starters to the Pro Bowl over the past two years. But New Orleans' line didn't perform to its potential on a consistent basis in 2010.

Guards Jahri Evans and Carl Nicks are probably the best tandem in the NFL, having both earned trips to Hawaii despite the Saints' struggles in 2010. Not only are they a source of power in the run game, but they're also

5-YEAR RECORD: 49-31



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Saints)

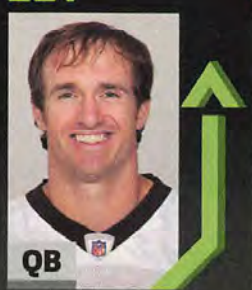
"Teams have had the most success when they've been able to run the ball at them, because now you do two things: keep that offense off the field and control the clock. ... They're at their best when they cause turnovers, because now that offense has a shorter field and more possessions to work with. ... Teams have had a lot of success against them in the special teams department, whether it's pinning them back and making them drive the field or breaking big returns on them. ...

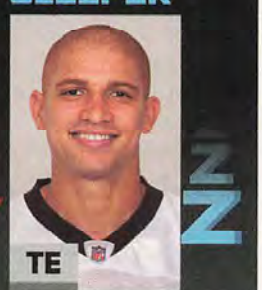
"As long as (Sean) Payton and (Drew) Brees are there, they're going to rank top five offensively. They have multiple guys involved in the game plan, all the weapons they have, particularly on the goal line when they can use (Marques) Colston and (Jimmy) Graham to throw them jump balls. ...

"The wild card on offense, particularly in the red zone, remains Reggie Bush. He gives you so many mismatch problems. The key thing for them is to be balanced. If they're balanced, they're dangerous. If it's all Brees, you've got a shot to beat them."

FANTASY SPIN

Adding rookie Mark Ingram makes the Saints' backfield (which already included Pierre Thomas, Reggie Bush and Chris Ivory) just as confounding as the receiving corps.





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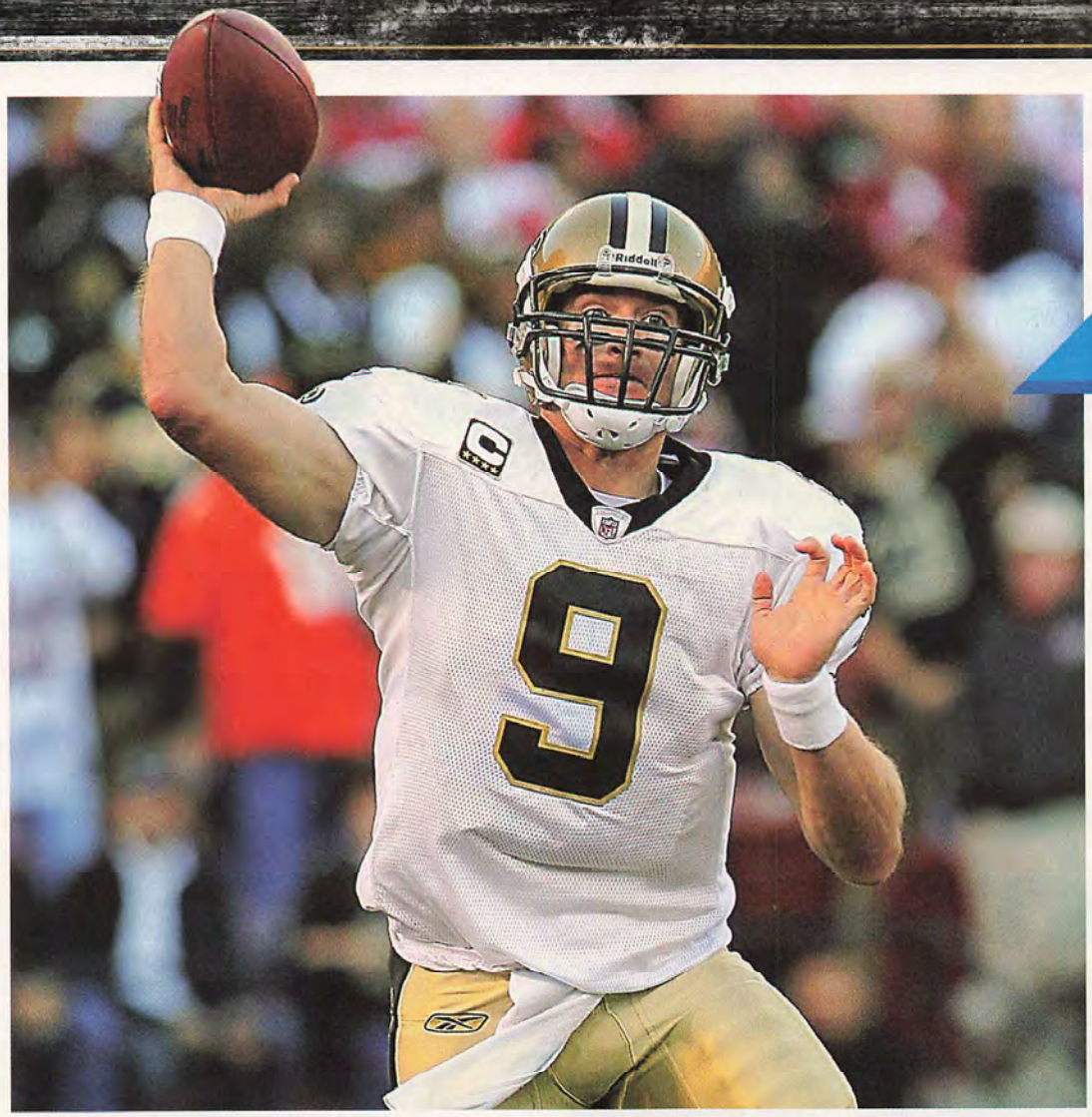


THE BOOK ON ...

DREW BREES

"I see Drew Brees as a poised, soft-spoken guy when it comes to the public but very demanding to his players. His ability to make everybody around him play at a higher level is his greatest asset. His preparation throughout the week and his understanding of everything that's going on presnap, you can see it in his eyes when he's out there. He knows what he's doing."

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

DT Shaun Rogers (FA/Browns)

SUBTRACTIONS

TE Jeremy Shockey (FA/Panthers)

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	372.5	6
Rushing	94.9	28
Passing	277.6	3
Scoring	384	11
Punt Returns	7.8	23
Kick Returns	22.7	15
Red Zone TD %	50.8	20
Total Defense	306.2	4
Against Rush	112.3	16
Against Pass	193.9	4
Points Allowed	307	7
Interceptions	9	32
Sacks	33	18t
Turnover Diff.	-6	23t

athletic enough to create a solid pocket for Brees in the middle of the field. Veteran center Jonathan Goodwin has also been solid in the middle, though the Saints will consider replacing him with Matt Tennant at some point.

Left tackle Jermon Bushrod has been a reliable starter after being thrown into the fire during the 2009 preseason. The only question mark is whether the Saints are willing to sign him to a long-term contract extension or whether they'll risk going with inexperienced backup Charles Brown.

Right tackle Jon Stinchcomb struggled in 2010 after a Pro Bowl season in '09 because of a lingering knee injury that required surgery in the offseason. He's hoping to come back strong by training camp. **GRADE: B+**

DEFENSE

The Saints' secondary collapsed in the playoff loss at Seattle, which was disappointing considering how well they played all year long. The secondary remains a strength, however, and Williams is one of the league's most creative coordinators on defense.

The goal in 2011 will be to develop a more consistent pass rush and force more turnovers like New Orleans did in 2009. The Saints got off to a good start by signing disruptive tackle Shaun Rogers in free agency, then adding defensive end Cameron Jordan and linebacker Martez Wilson in the draft.

Defensive line ▸ The Saints made a quick move to add some explosiveness up front by signing Rogers before the lockout started. Although Rogers has been inconsistent in recent years, he remains a force against the run and pass when healthy.

Rogers will line up alongside three-technique tackle Sedrick Ellis in the Saints' 4-3 front. Ellis has shown flashes of greatness during his three-year career, but hasn't been dominant yet.

End Will Smith remains the standout player in this group, though his production dipped from a career-high 13 sacks in 2009 to 5.5 in 2010. Fellow veteran Alex Brown is less dynamic at the other end spot but solid against the pass and the run.

Jordan likely won't be a dynamic pass

DAVE STEPHENSON / ICON SMI

rusher in the NFL, and will start out competing with Brown for a starting spot. But the Saints love his size (6-4, 287) and versatility. Backup end Jeff Charleston is a decent pass rusher who will remain in the mix, while second-year project Junior Galette could work his way into the rotation. Veteran Jimmy Wilkerson should figure into the rotation at end and tackle, though it's unclear if the Saints will bring back nose tackle Remi Ayodele or Anthony Hargrove.

GRADE: B-

Linebackers ▸ The Saints have one of the top middle linebackers in the game in Jonathan Vilma, an active, athletic playmaker who piles up tackles. But they have a lot of question marks surrounding him. Weakside linebacker Scott Shanle, strongside linebacker Danny Clark and Jo-Lonn Dunbar were the top three starters on the outside in 2010, but all of them are free agents.

Wilson will compete for a starting job on the strong side. He's a tantalizing athlete (6-4, 250) who ran the fastest 40-yard dash time of any linebacker at the Combine. But he's still a raw prospect after missing the entire 2009 season with a neck injury at Illinois, and also will be switching positions from the middle to the outside.

The Saints like the potential of young backups Jonathan Casillas and Stanley Arnoux, but they have been plagued by injuries. Casillas earned a starting job on the weak side last year after a dynamic preseason performance, but a foot injury ended his season. Casillas is reminiscent of Vilma in that he's an active playmaker who is capable of covering a lot of ground and being

DRAFT REPORT

Even though the Saints traded away their first-round pick in 2012, the price was worth it as the team drafted two prominent rookies in defensive end **Cameron Jordan** and running back **Mark Ingram** in the first round. Jordan will likely start immediately at left end, while **Martez Wilson**, a third-round pick, may earn the starting nod at strongside linebacker.

Cornerback **Johnny Patrick** was a reach as there were better prospects available at the time, but seventh-rounders **Greg Romeus** and **Nate Bussey** were steals. Expect Romeus to get a look behind Jordan at left end, while Bussey will be a special teams demon to begin his career.

Jordan

GRADE B+

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	24	Cameron Jordan	DE	6-4	287	California
1	28	Mark Ingram	RB	5-9	215	Alabama
3	8	Martez Wilson	ILB	6-4	250	Illinois
3	24	Johnny Patrick	CB	5-11	186	Louisville
7	23	Greg Romeus	DE	6-5	264	Pittsburgh
7	40	Nate Bussey	OLB	6-1	235	Illinois

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/09	W	14-9	Minnesota Vikings
09/20	W	25-22	San Francisco 49ers
09/26	L	24-27	Atlanta Falcons
10/03	W	16-14	Carolina Panthers
10/10	L	20-30	Arizona Cardinals
10/17	W	31-6	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/24	L	17-30	Cleveland Browns
10/31	W	20-10	Pittsburgh Steelers
11/07	W	34-3	Carolina Panthers
11/21	W	34-19	Seattle Seahawks
11/25	W	30-27	Dallas Cowboys
12/05	W	34-30	Cincinnati Bengals
12/12	W	31-13	St. Louis Rams
12/19	L	24-30	Baltimore Ravens
12/27	W	17-14	Atlanta Falcons
01/02	L	13-23	Tampa Bay Buccaneers

WON 11, LOST 5

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ivory	137	716	5.2	55	5
P. Thomas	83	269	3.2	16	2
Jones	48	193	4.0	54	0
Bush	36	150	4.2	23	0
Betts	45	150	3.3	12	2
Daniel	2	16	8.0	16	0
Meachem	4	14	3.5	8	0
Henderson	3	8	2.7	9	0
Graham	1	3	3.0	3	0
Evans	2	2	1.0	2	0
Colston	1	1	1.0	1	0
Brees	18	-3	-0.2	7	0
NEW ORLEANS	**380**	**1519**	**4.0**	**55**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**421**	**1797**	**4.3**	**68**	**13**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Colston	84	1023	12.2	43	7
Moore	66	763	11.6	80	8
Meachem	44	638	14.5	55	5
Shockey	41	408	10.0	31	3
Bush	34	208	6.1	20	1
Henderson	34	464	13.6	57	1
Graham	31	356	11.5	52	5
D. Thomas	30	219	7.3	22	2
P. Thomas	29	201	6.9	23	0
Betts	23	141	6.1	25	0
Jones	17	59	3.5	13	0
Evans	7	41	5.9	18	1
Arrington	7	79	11.3	17	0
Ivory	1	17	17.0	17	0
Humphrey	1	12	12.0	12	0
Brees	1	7	7.0	7	0
NEW ORLEANS	**450**	**4636**	**10.3**	**80**	**33**
OPPONENTS	**306**	**3103**	**10.1**	**68**	**13**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Brees	658	448	4620	33	22
Daniel	3	2	16	0	0
NEW ORLEANS	**661**	**450**	**4636**	**33**	**22**
OPPONENTS	**494**	**306**	**3353**	**13**	**9**

SACKS NEW ORLEANS 33, OPPONENTS 26

Ellis 6, Smith 5.5, Vilma 4, Charleston 3, Harper 3, Brown 2, Wilkerson 2, Jenkins 1, Ayodele 1, Dunbar 1, Hargrove 1, Mitchell 1, Torrence 1, Young 1, Prioleau 0.5

ICON SMI

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
9 Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	1/15/79	11	Purdue
Canfield, Sean	QB	6-4	223	11/12/86	1	Oregon State
10 Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	10/7/86	3	Missouri

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
70 Allen, Roger	G	6-3	323	2/10/86	2	Missouri Western State
71 Brown, Charles	T	6-5	297	4/10/87	2	USC
74 Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	315	8/19/84	5	Towson
60 De La Puente, Brian	G	6-3	306	5/13/85	2	California
47 Drescher, Justin	LS	6-1	230	1/1/88	2	Colorado
73 Evans, Jahri	T	6-4	318	8/22/83	6	Bloomsburg
76 Goodwin, Jonathan	G	6-3	318	12/2/78	10	Michigan
57 Kyle, Jason	LS	6-3	242	5/12/72	17	Arizona State
77 Nicks, Carl	G	6-5	343	5/14/85	4	Nebraska
78 Stinchcomb, Jon	T	6-5	315	8/27/79	9	Georgia
64 Strief, Zach	G	6-7	320	9/22/83	6	Northwestern
65 Tennant, Matt	C	6-4	300	3/19/87	2	Boston College

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
43 Bell, Joique	RB	5-11	220	8/4/86	2	Wayne State (Mich.)
46 Betts, Ladell	RB	5-11	224	8/27/79	10	Iowa
25 Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	3/2/85	6	USC
45 Collins, Jed	RB	6-1	255	3/3/86	2	Washington State
44 Evans, Heath	RB	6-0	250	12/30/78	11	Auburn
30 Hamilton, Lynell	RB	6-0	235	8/5/85	3	San Diego State
Ingram, Mark	RB	5-9	215	12/21/89	0	Alabama
29 Ivory, Chris	RB	6-0	227	3/22/88	2	Tiffin University
21 Jones, Julius	RB	5-10	208	8/14/81	8	Notre Dame
36 Taylor, Chris	RB	6-0	224	11/7/83	5	Indiana
23 Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	12/18/84	5	Illinois
35 Wynn, DeShawn	RB	5-10	232	10/9/83	5	Florida

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
87 Arrington, Adrian	WR	6-3	192	11/7/85	2	Michigan
Billings, Montez	WR	6-1	181	6/15/86	1	Auburn
12 Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	6/5/83	6	Hofstra
80 Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-6	260	11/24/86	2	Miami (Fla.)
19 Henderson, Devery	WR	5-11	200	3/26/82	8	LSU
84 Humphrey, Tory	TE	6-2	255	1/20/83	5	Central Michigan
Lorenzen, Tyler	TE	6-5	234	12/24/85	1	Connecticut
17 Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	210	9/28/84	5	Tennessee
16 Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	8/31/83	6	Toledo
15 Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	1/10/83	6	Indiana
Tanner, Andy	WR	6-0	183	5/16/88	1	Midwestern State
85 Thomas, David	TE	6-3	248	7/5/83	6	Texas

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
92 Ayodele, Remi	DT	6-2	318	4/22/83	5	Oklahoma
96 Brown, Alex	DE	6-3	260	6/4/79	10	Florida
97 Charleston, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	1/19/83	5	Idaho State
98 Ellis, Sedrick	DT	6-1	307	7/9/85	4	USC
93 Galette, Junior	DE	6-2	258	3/27/88	2	Stillman
69 Hargrove, Anthony	DE	6-3	272	7/20/83	7	Georgia Tech
Johnson, Tom	DT	6-3	280	8/30/84	0	Southern Mississippi
Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	7/10/89	0	California
King, Mitch	DE	6-2	282	5/5/86	1	Iowa
Miller, Swanson	DT	6-4	310	3/24/86	1	Oklahoma State
Rogers, Shaun	DT	6-4	350	3/12/79	11	Texas
Romeus, Greg	DE	6-5	264	4/29/88	0	Pittsburgh
91 Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	7/4/81	8	Ohio State
99 Wilkerson, Jimmy	DE	6-2	270	1/4/81	9	Oklahoma

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Gay, Randall	CB	5-11	190	5/5/82	8	LSU
37 Giordano, Matt	S	5-11	207	10/16/82	7	California
33 Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	2/11/82	8	Tennessee
41 Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	12/11/82	6	Alabama
27 Jenkins, Malcolm	CB	6-0	204	12/20/87	3	Ohio State
38 Parson, Mark	CB	5-10	189	5/9/86	2	Ohio
Patrick, Johnny	CB	5-11	185	7/18/88	0	Louisville
22 Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	186	8/11/86	4	Indiana
31 Prioleau, Pierson	S	5-11	188	8/6/77	13	Virginia Tech
39 Reis, Chris	S	6-1	215	9/19/83	5	Georgia Tech
34 Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	9/7/87	2	Florida State
42 Sharper, Darren	S	6-2	210	11/3/75	15	William & Mary
24 Torrence, Leigh	CB	5-11	179	1/4/82	6	Stanford
28 Young, Usama	S	6-0	200	5/8/85	5	Kent State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
53 Arnoux, Stanley	LB	6-0	232	9/9/86	3	Wake Forest
Bussey, Nate	LB	6-1	219	2/20/89	0	Illinois
Butler, Ezra	LB	6-2	235	11/20/84	1	Nevada
52 Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	6/3/87	3	Wisconsin
55 Clark, Danny	LB	6-2	233	5/9/77	12	Illinois
56 Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	226	3/13/85	4	Boston College
54 Humber, Ramon	LB	5-11	232	8/10/87	3	North Dakota State
94 Mitchell, Kawika	LB	6-1	253	10/10/79	9	South Florida
50 Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	249	10/21/84	5	Tennessee
58 Shanle, Scott	LB	6-2	245	11/23/79	9	Nebraska
51 Vilma, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	4/16/82	8	Miami (Fla.)
59 Waters, Anthony	LB	6-3	238	7/25/84	4	Clemson
Wilson, Martez	LB	6-4	250	9/21/89	0	Illinois

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Hartley, Garrett	K	5-8	196	5/16/86	4	Oklahoma
6 Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	225	3/7/86	3	SMU

SEAN PAYTON, Head coach

Pete Carmichael Jr., offensive coordinator; **Gregg Williams,** defensive coordinator; **Greg McMahon,** special teams coordinator; **Joe Vitt,** assistant head coach/linebackers; **Bret Ingalls,** running backs; **Bill Johnson,** defensive line; **Curtis Johnson,** wide receivers; **Travis Jones,** assistant defensive line; **Aaron Kromer,** offensive line/running game; **Joe Lombardi,** quarterbacks; **Mike Mallory,** assistant secondary; **Terry Malone,** tight ends; **Tony Oden,** secondary; **Carter Sheridan,** assistant wide receivers

INSIDE THE HEADSET
SEAN PAYTON

Payton is one of the most creative and aggressive coaches in the league. He uses a wide variety of formations. And together, he and quarterback Drew Brees are able to identify and exploit defensive mismatches. Perhaps he needs to show more balance with a consistent rushing attack, but Payton and Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy have proven you can win a Super Bowl with a pass-heavy offense.

an effective blitzer. **GRADE: C+**

Secondary ▸ The strongest unit on the Saints' defense got even better last year with the emergence of Malcolm Jenkins, who made a smooth transition from cornerback to free safety in his second season. Jenkins doesn't pile up interceptions like his predecessor, Darren Sharper, but he has shown a knack for forcing fumbles and coming up big in key moments. He was arguably the Saints' defensive MVP in 2010 and should only get better now that he's adjusted to the new position.

Jabari Greer and Tracy Porter make up one of the best young starting cornerback tandems in the league. Greer's performance suffered last year because he was fighting through a shoulder injury but, when healthy, the speedster is one of the most underrated man-coverage corners in the NFL. Porter earned his NFL stripes as a postseason hero during the Saints' Super Bowl run. The Saints are hoping to develop Patrick Robinson, whom they drafted in the first round last year. Robinson has great speed and athleticism and needs to hone the instincts and confidence that come with experience.

Strong safety Roman Harper completes this unit, assuming the Saints re-sign him as a free agent. Harper is a worthy two-time Pro Bowl selection who hits hard and forces a lot of fumbles as a run defender and blitzer. Coverage has always been the weakest link for Harper, though he showed signs of improvement in that area last year before struggling down the stretch. **GRADE: A-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Saints feel good about their young kicker/punter combination of Garrett Hartley and Thomas Morstead, but need to make some improvements in the return game. The team may look to bring in a more explosive kick return man and perhaps a punt returner to pair with Bush.

The Saints signed Hartley to a long-term extension after he finished strong in 2010. The playoff hero from two years ago struggled early last year and was temporarily benched, but regained his consistency and has one of the stronger legs in the league. Morstead is also one of the best punters in the NFL, so the Saints are set there. **GRADE: C-**

BOTTOM LINE

Last season was a down year for the Saints, and they still finished 11-5. Improved health in the rushing game—and a consistent commitment to running the ball—should make a big difference. The defense needs to be more disruptive up front, but as long as Payton and Brees are running this offense, the Saints will remain one of the most prolific passing teams in the NFL, which makes them perennial playoff contenders.

86
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

4

NFC SOUTH

SN PICK 3-13

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Cam Newton Jimmy Clausen
FB	Tony Fiammetta Rashawn Jackson
RB	DeAngelo Williams Jonathan Stewart
LT	Jordan Gross Garry Williams
LG	Travelle Wharton C.J. Davis
C	Ryan Kalil Mackenzy Bernadeau
RG	Geoff Schwartz Duke Robinson
RT	Jeff Otah Garry Williams
TE	Jeremy Shockey Jeff King
WR	Steve Smith Armanti Edwards
WR	David Gettis Brandon LaFell
DEFENSE	
DE	Charles Johnson Everette Brown
DT	Terrell McClain Derek Landri
DT	Sione Fua Andre Neblett
DE	Tyler Brayton Greg Hardy
SLB	James Anderson Eric Norwood
MLB	Jon Beason Dan Connor
WLB	Thomas Davis Jason Williams
LCB	Chris Gamble Brandon Hogan
SS	Sherrod Martin Marcus Hudson
FS	Charles Godfrey Jordan Pugh
RCB	Richard Marshall Captain Munnerlyn
SPECIALISTS	
K	John Kasay
P	Jason Baker
KR	Mike Goodson
PR	Armanti Edwards
LS	J.J. Jansen

Rivera charged with rebuilding Panthers, but it won't be easy

By Darin Gantt *The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald*

The best thing that happened to the Panthers was getting a coaching staff that wanted to be in Charlotte, N.C. John Fox insisted that his lame-duck contract status wouldn't be a problem, but it clearly was in 2010. His replacement, Ron Rivera, has put together a younger, more energetic staff and the Panthers are hoping they mesh better with the parts general manager Marty Hurney has put in place.

Are they a playoff contender this year? Barring a miracle, probably not. Rather, Carolina will be looking for the same kind of bounce Fox created in 2002, when the team went from 1-15 the previous year to 7-9 and playoff contention in the final week of the season.

OFFENSE

Once the Panthers decide on a quarterback and get him settled in, there's the chance for a quick improvement. The team's strengths are a solid offensive line and running game, and that gives new coordinator Rob Chudzinski a stable platform.

Carolina wants to play a downfield-passing, Don Coryell-esque system, and there's a philosophical consistency among the coaching staff. All but one of the assistants they hired has a background with Coryell disciples such as Norv Turner or Mike Martz, and that at least allows them to start on the same page.

Quarterbacks ➤ The Panthers have their star-in-the-making, now they just have to decide how slowly to bring him along.

Top overall pick Cam Newton will get a chance to play, partly by default. But Newton may be behind the NFL's learning curve because of the league's labor issues.

But make no mistake, this will be Newton's team sooner or later; the Panthers just have to decide how to proceed with the guys on hand prior to his arrival.

Matt Moore was rattled early last season and then was lost for the year with a torn labrum. It's unsure whether the Panthers will even bring him back for 2011. Jimmy Clausen looked like a rookie who didn't want to hear the coaching of a staff that didn't want him.

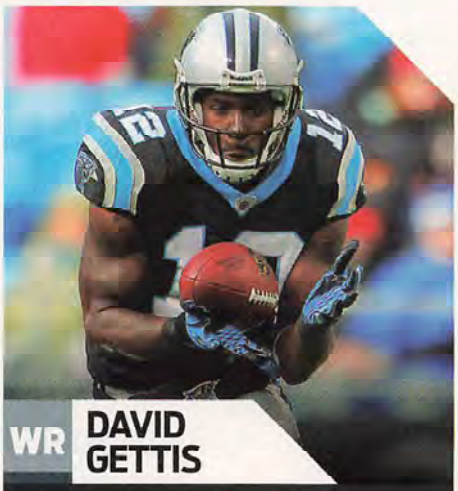
Clausen had moments of competence, but too often was forced to run for his life and, without clear passing lanes, was reduced to checking down or getting rid of the ball.

Anything the team gets out of Clausen or a potential free-agent veteran QB will be temporary, and all the focus will be on getting Newton ready. **GRADE: C-**

Running backs ➤ The Panthers want to retain DeAngelo Williams when free agency kicks in, but even without him, this is still a very good group.

You don't toss aside the leading rusher in franchise history lightly, but there's a reasonable argument to be made that Jonathan Stewart is more talented, and he's certainly

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



WR DAVID GETTIS

Gettis showed flashes last year, and is the lone true deep threat on the roster. With Jeremy Shockey clearing out things underneath, Gettis could blossom in 2011. He has track-star speed, and could flourish in a system that values the deep ball.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 2-14 HOME: 2-6

➤ **ONLINE:** www.panthers.com

➤ **STADIUM:** Bank of America Stadium

Capacity: 73,298 **Turf:** Grass

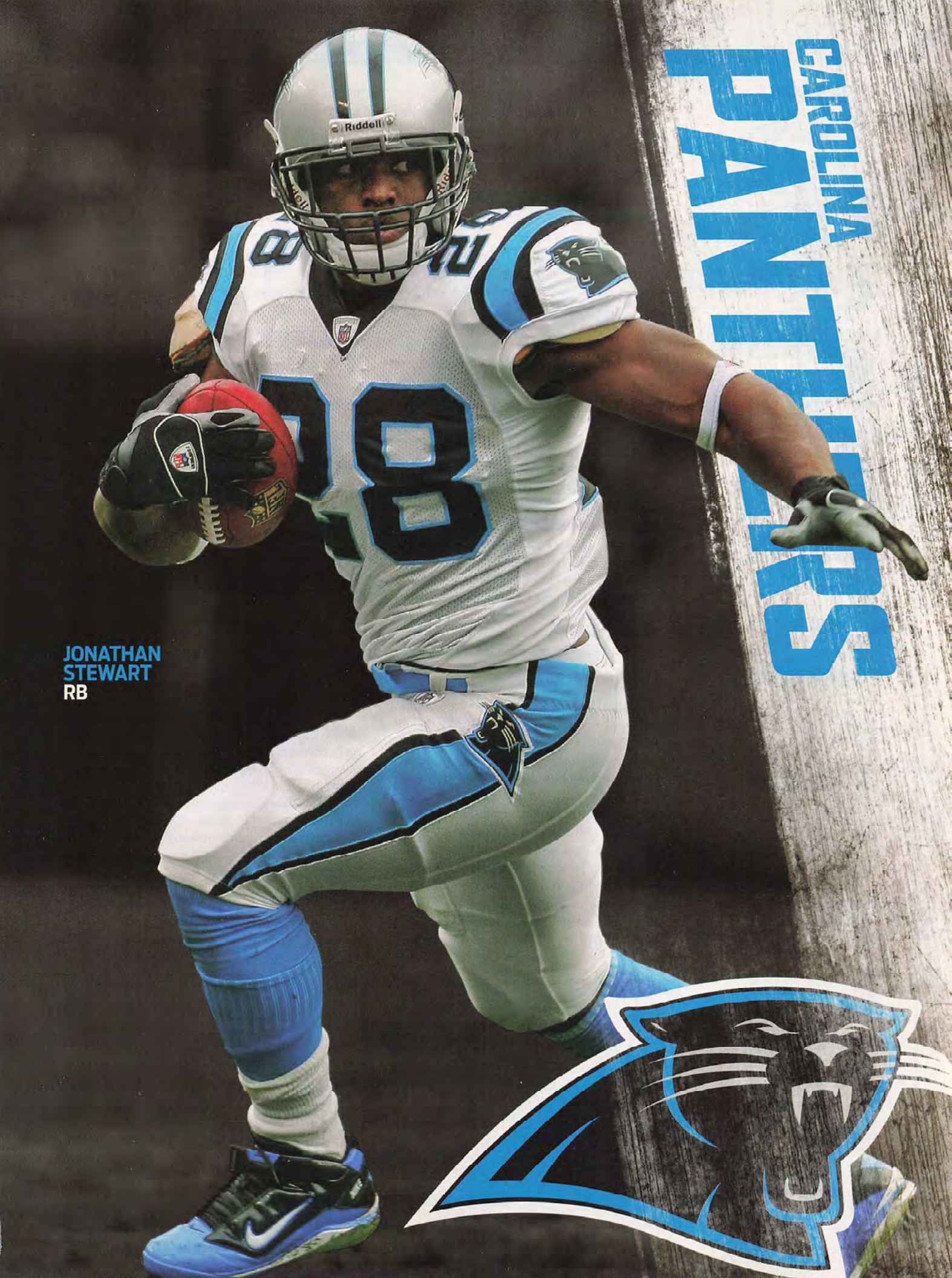
Tickets: 704-358-7800

➤ **TRAINING CAMP:** Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.; 704-358-7000

PANTHERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Eric Davis (1996-2000)	25
2	Chris Gamble (2004-present)	24
3	Mike Minter (1997-2006)	17

TODD KIRKLAND / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: BOB LEVERONE / SN


CAROLINA
PANTHERS
JONATHAN
STEWART
RB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 @ ARIZONA — SEPT. 11 | 4:15 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 2 GREEN BAY — SEPT. 18 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 3 JACKSONVILLE — SEPT. 25 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 4 @ CHICAGO — OCT. 2 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 5 NEW ORLEANS — OCT. 9 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 6 @ ATLANTA — OCT. 16 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 7 WASHINGTON — OCT. 23 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 8 MINNESOTA — OCT. 30 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 9 OPEN

WEEK 10 TENNESSEE — NOV. 13 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 11 @ DETROIT — NOV. 20 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 12 @ INDIANAPOLIS — NOV. 27 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 13 @ TAMPA BAY — DEC. 4 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 14 ATLANTA — DEC. 11 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 15 @ HOUSTON — DEC. 18 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 16 TAMPA BAY — DEC. 24 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

WEEK 17 @ NEW ORLEANS — JAN. 1 | 1:00 — SCORE (W/L)

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

younger with fewer miles on his tires.

Stewart is the more physical runner of the two, but underselling his explosiveness would be a mistake. He has the jets to get outside and create long runs, though many pigeonhole him as "the big one."

Where the Panthers have an edge is with two runners in reserve who would leave them in good hands if Williams leaves. Mike Goodson gained confidence last year, and may be the perfect change-of-pace back. He's improved as a pass protector, which earns him some third-down trust.

Tyrell Sutton also returns. He's versatile enough to have subbed in at fullback in the past, but has moments as a powerful little runner. Fullback Tony Fiammetta improved last year, to the extent the previous year's furor over releasing veteran Brad Hoover waned.

GRADE: A

Receivers ▸ The key with this group will be keeping Steve Smith here and keeping him happy. When he's on, Smith is still one of the game's best, but he looked like a guy going through the motions last year. In a perfect world, Smith would buy the Panthers more time to groom a cast of three rookies from last year's draft. Each of them has potential, with David Gettis showing the most initially, including some spectacular deep catches. Brandon LaFell came on late and could be a solid third-down option.

But the unknown is Armanti Edwards, who was drafted and summarily ignored by the previous coaching staff. The new regime thinks he has potential to turn into a Smith-type weapon out of the slot, and the hiring of Ricky Proehl as an assistant receivers coach was done with the former Appalachian State QB in mind.

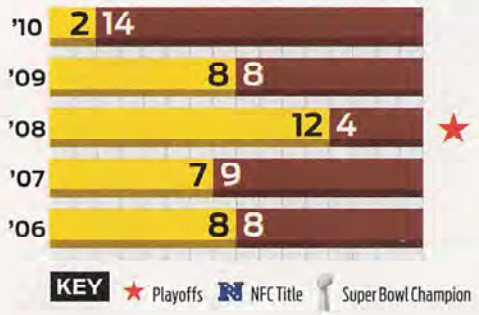
Adding Jeremy Shockey just before the lockout was a coup. Even though New Orleans cut him in favor of Jimmy Graham, the 31-year-old Shockey still represents an upgrade for Carolina. The Panthers got by last year with a cast of role players (Jeff King, Dante Rosario, Gary Barnidge), and there was a need for a shot of talent. As long as Shockey can stay healthy, he represents that element. **GRADE: C**

Offensive line ▸ In addition to the running backs, this is the strength of the Panthers. There are two Pro Bowlers in left tackle Jordan Gross and center Ryan Kalil, a guy with the potential to join them in right tackle Jeff Otah and Travelle Wharton, a solid player at left guard.

Of course, the Panthers must keep Otah healthy, and that's proven to be a challenge. He missed all of last year with a knee problem Carolina thought would be fine by Week 3, making some wonder if he's a malingerer. Otah is also coming off shoulder surgery.

They found some acceptable depth last year,

5-YEAR RECORD: 37-43



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Panthers)

"One thing they've got going for them is nobody has any idea what to expect. We're all just guessing, on both offense and defense. You kind of have an idea what (coach) Ron (Rivera) is going to do on his side, but the offense is a total mystery. ...

"They have some issues here, even with the parts of their team that are strong. The offensive line is good. (Ryan) Kalil is as good as they come and (Jordan) Gross is so steady. But what's going on on the other side? They're counting on Jeff Otah coming back healthy, but he looks like a guy who might stay hurt and take his time getting back out there. Seriously, unless there was more to the story than we heard, I was shocked a knee scope kept him out all year. Is he tough? Right guard's an issue, too. They've got a lot of guys there, but no one you really trust long-term. ...

"I like (Jon) Beason and he's their best linebacker, but they've got to find a way to get Dan Connor on the field, too. ... Is he as talented as Beason? No. But he can play for a lot of teams, and they need to get something out of him."

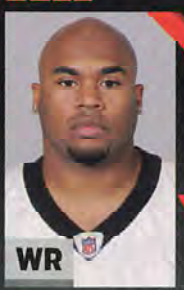
FANTASY SPIN

Plenty of excitement surrounds Cam Newton, but keep in mind that there's a steep learning curve for rookie QBs. Plus, he'll be dealing with declining and subpar receiving options.

BUY

RB — Jonathan Stewart

SELL

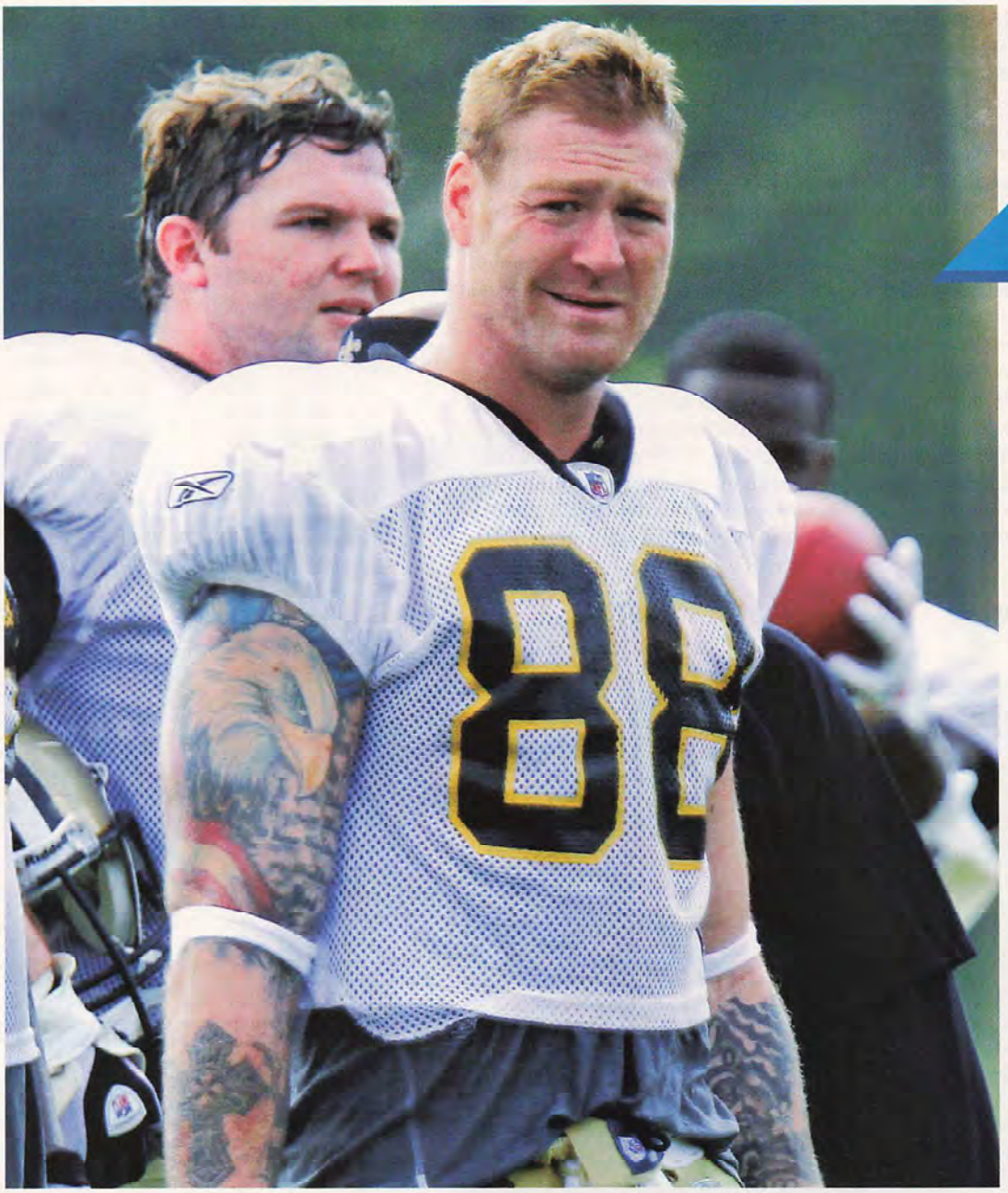


WR — Steve Smith

SLEEPER

RB — Mike Goodson

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



ROBERT E KLEIN / AP

THE BOOK ON ...

JEREMY SHOCKEY

"I've got to tell you, I really like them getting Jeremy Shockey. Sure, there's always something wrong with him, and maybe you can't count on 16 games out of him anymore. But he's a huge upgrade over what they had at the position, and will help whoever they decide to put in there at quarterback. To be honest, he's probably the best thing they did for the quarterbacks, because they didn't have a dependable target last year. ...

"He still has good hands and understands how to get himself open, and he could really put up big numbers. But he's also a better blocker than people give him credit for, especially in a short area. He's a tough kid, and he's working with a coach he knows (offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski), and he's staying in the division, so he's probably going to be motivated. You guys (the media) won't like him and he won't like you, but his teammates seem to, and that's what matters."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	258.4	32
Rushing	115.4	13
Passing	143.1	32
Scoring	196	32
Punt Returns	9.6	19
Kick Returns	21.9	19
Red Zone TD %	30.3	32
Total Defense	335.9	18
Against Rush	123.8	23
Against Pass	212.1	11
Points Allowed	408	26
Interceptions	17	11t
Sacks	31	20t
Turnover Diff.	-8	25t

as Geoff Schwartz, Mackenzy Bernadeau and Garry Williams played well in spurts.

The wild card is Duke Robinson, who was suspended late last year for violating the league's drug policy. If he's clean and motivated (at one point, Robinson was too overweight to practice in training camp) he could be a force, but Carolina can't count on that. **GRADE: A**

DEFENSE

Rivera will probably have a heavy hand here, but the Panthers think they hit a home run in nabbing new coordinator Sean McDermott. His star dimmed in Philadelphia, but he's still considered a bright, young mind. Perhaps the pressure of replacing a legend (the late Jim Johnson) created more pressure than he was ready for. The Panthers have some parts in place to play the attacking style Rivera has always promoted with a variety of pass-rush options at end and linebacker, though they need upgrades in the interior and at cornerback.

Defensive line ▸ It's simple here: Outside good, inside bad. The Panthers are going to do everything to retain end Charles Johnson and, if they do, there will be a solid stable of ends who can stop the run as well as shine in the pass-rush game. With regular snaps for the first time in his career, Johnson took off with 11.5 sacks. That's more than the guy he was replacing (Julius Peppers, who had eight for Chicago), even though Johnson isn't the same kind of talent.

Coupled with a stable veteran in Tyler Brayton and two emerging pass rushers,

this is a solid crew. The light came on for Everette Brown before he was lost for the final month with a wrist injury (3.5 sacks in his last five games), while Greg Hardy was impressive as a rookie.

The problem is inside, and the team took a huge step (and made a huge statement) by using both 2011 third-round picks on tackles in Terrell McClain and Sione Fua. McClain should be a starter from Day 1, and is the kind of big, physical talent the Panthers have lacked in recent years. Fua will be good against the run, but doesn't have big upside. Carolina still needs an addition or two here in free agency. **GRADE: D+**

Linebackers > If the Panthers can get Thomas Davis healthy (after two straight torn ACLs) and re-signed, they should be in good shape. Even if James Anderson ends up elsewhere, Carolina has a few options around a strong middle. Jon Beason is one of the best in the game, and he has a backup in Dan Connor who would start most other places..

Carolina has a few sleepers at linebacker as well. Waiver-claim pickup Jason Williams had a moment or two last year when he looked like someone the team could trust in key situations. Also, conversion project Eric Norwood (who spent most of his college career as a rush end) is the kind of player who could flourish under Rivera. If Anderson gets away, you could easily see Norwood stepping in. **GRADE: C+**

Secondary > From the inside out, the Panthers' secondary isn't that bad. Young safeties Charles Godfrey and Sherrod Martin took huge steps last

DRAFT REPORT

Teams that earn the first pick in every round should have a natural advantage. However, given the players available in each round, Carolina missed out on some opportunities to improve. The Panthers felt they had no choice but to take quarterback **Cam Newton** first overall, despite the incredible talent on defense available at several positions. If Newton does not become at least an average starting quarterback in the next couple seasons, it is going to be difficult justify this pick.

The Panthers made a quality choice in **Terrell McClain**. He will likely start at tackle this fall. However, defensive tackle **Sione Fua** and cornerback **Brandon Hogan** were reaches. **Kealoha Pilares** is a sleeper who should contribute as a slot wide receiver and third-down running back as a rookie. Offensive linemen **Lawrence Wilson** and **Lee Ziemba** have limited upside for the NFL, but might push for playing time on a bad team.

Newton

GRADE

A | B | **C+** | C | D | F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	1	Cam Newton	QB	6-5	248	Auburn
3	1	Terrell McClain	DT	6-2	297	South Florida
3	33	Sione Fua	DT	6-1	308	Stanford
4	1	Brandon Hogan	CB	5-10	190	West Virginia
5	1	Kealoha Pilares	RB	5-10	199	Hawaii
6	1	Lawrence Wilson	OLB	6-1	229	Connecticut
6	38	Zach Williams	C	6-3	309	Washington State
7	41	Lee Ziemba	OT	6-6	317	Auburn

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	18-31	New York Giants
09/19	L	7-20	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
09/26	L	7-20	Cincinnati Bengals
10/03	L	14-16	New Orleans Saints
10/10	L	6-23	Chicago Bears
10/24	W	23-20	San Francisco 49ers
10/31	L	10-20	St. Louis Rams
11/07	L	3-34	New Orleans Saints
11/14	L	16-31	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/21	L	13-37	Baltimore Ravens
11/28	L	23-24	Cleveland Browns
12/05	L	14-31	Seattle Seahawks
12/12	L	10-31	Atlanta Falcons
12/19	W	19-12	Arizona Cardinals
12/23	L	3-27	Pittsburgh Steelers
01/02	L	10-31	Atlanta Falcons

WON 2, LOST 14

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Stewart	178	770	4.3	48	2
Goodson	103	452	4.4	45	3
Williams	87	361	4.1	39	1
Sutton	13	71	5.5	32	0
LaFell	1	60	60.0	60	0
Clausen	23	57	2.5	11	0
Moore	5	25	5.0	8	0
Fiammetta	7	22	3.1	11	0
Smith	1	9	9.0	9	0
Vaughn	3	7	2.3	6	1
Edwards	1	7	7.0	7	0
Senn	1	5	5.0	5	0
Gettis	3	2	0.7	19	0
Baker	1	0	0.0	0	0
Rosario	1	-2	-2	-2	0
CAROLINA	**428**	**1846**	**4.3**	**60**	**7**
OPPONENTS	**503**	**1981**	**3.9**	**68**	**20**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith	46	554	12.0	39	2
Goodson	40	310	7.8	32	0
LaFell	38	468	12.3	44	1
Gettis	37	508	13.7	88	3
Rosario	32	264	8.3	26	0
King	19	121	6.4	16	2
Sutton	12	70	5.8	14	0
Williams	11	61	5.5	14	0
Stewart	8	103	12.9	55	1
Clowney	6	102	17.0	31	0
Fiammetta	5	34	6.8	11	0
Jarrett	2	40	20.0	21	0
CAROLINA	**256**	**2635**	**10.3**	**88**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**326**	**3393**	**10.4**	**56**	**19**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Clausen	299	157	1558	3	9
Moore	143	79	857	5	10
St. Pierre	28	13	173	1	2
Pike	12	6	47	0	0
Edwards	1	1	0	0	0
LaFell	1	0	0	0	0
CAROLINA	**484**	**256**	**2635**	**9**	**21**
OPPONENTS	**526**	**326**	**3617**	**19**	**17**

SACKS CAROLINA 31, OPPONENTS 50

Johnson 11.5, Anderson 3.5, Brown 3.5, Hardy 3, Harris 1.5, Landri 3, Beason 1, Connor 1, Hayden 1, Marshall 1, Norwood 1

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
2 Clausen, Jimmy	QB	6-2	222	9/21/1987	2	Notre Dame
3 Moore, Matt	QB	6-3	202	8/9/1984	5	Oregon State
Newton, Cam	QB	6-5	248	5/11/1989	0	Auburn
9 Null, Keith	QB	6-4	219	9/24/1985	2	West Texas A&M
16 Pike, Tony	QB	6-6	222	3/10/1986	2	Cincinnati
6 St. Pierre, Brian	QB	6-3	224	11/28/1979	9	Boston College

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Bender, Jacob	T	6-6	315	4/25/1985	3	Nicholls State
73 Bernadeau, Mackenzy	G	6-4	308	1/3/1986	4	Bentley
71 Davis, C.J.	G	6-2	308	2/2/1987	3	Pittsburgh
69 Gross, Jordan	T	6-4	305	7/20/1980	9	Utah
44 Jansen, J.J.	C	6-2	256	1/20/1986	4	Notre Dame
67 Kalil, Ryan	C	6-2	295	3/29/1985	5	USC
63 Morris, Chris	C	6-4	305	2/2/1983	6	Michigan State
79 Otah, Jeff	T	6-6	330	6/17/1986	4	Pittsburgh
64 Petitti, Rob	T	6-6	327	5/21/1982	5	Pittsburgh
72 Robinson, Duke	G	6-5	330	10/10/1986	3	Oklahoma
74 Schwartz, Geoff	T	6-6	331	7/11/1986	3	Oregon
70 Wharton, Travelle	T	6-4	312	5/19/1981	8	South Carolina
65 Williams, Garry	T	6-3	296	8/20/1986	3	Kentucky
Williams, Zack	C	6-3	309	12/27/1988	0	Washington State
Ziemba, Lee	T	6-6	317	3/29/1989	0	Auburn

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
42 Fiammetta, Tony	RB	6-0	242	8/22/1986	3	Syracuse
33 Goodson, Mike	RB	6-0	212	5/23/1987	3	Texas A&M
38 Jackson, Rashawn	RB	6-1	239	1/15/1987	1	Virginia
28 Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	235	3/21/1987	4	Oregon
22 Sutton, Tyrell	RB	5-8	213	12/19/1986	3	Northwestern
32 Vaughan, Josh	RB	6-0	232	12/3/1986	1	Richmond
34 Williams, DeAngelo	RB	5-9	217	4/25/1983	6	Memphis

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
82 Barnidge, Gary	TE	6-5	247	9/22/1985	4	Louisville
87 Clowney, David	WR	6-0	188	7/7/1985	4	Virginia Tech
10 Edwards, Armanti	WR	5-11	187	3/8/1988	2	Appalachian State
12 Gettis, David	WR	6-3	216	8/27/1987	2	Baylor
84 Guy, Trent	WR	5-8	171	8/22/1987	1	Louisville
47 King, Jeff	TE	6-3	260	2/19/1983	6	Virginia Tech
11 LaFell, Brandon	WR	6-2	211	11/4/1986	2	LSU
83 Martin, Charly	WR	6-1	212	3/20/1984	3	West Texas A&M
Pilares, Kealoha	WR	5-10	199	2/20/1988	0	Hawaii
88 Rosario, Dante	TE	6-4	250	10/25/1984	5	Oregon
Shockey, Jeremy	TE	6-5	251	8/18/1980	10	Miami (Fla.)
89 Smith, Steve	WR	5-9	185	5/12/1979	11	Utah
15 Wright, Wallace	WR	6-1	197	2/1/1984	5	North Carolina

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
96 Brayton, Tyler	DE	6-6	280	11/20/1979	9	Colorado
91 Brown, Everette	DE	6-1	256	8/7/1987	3	Florida State
Duhart, Tommie	DT	6-4	328	10/31/86	1	Valdosta State
Ellis, Louis	DT	6-2	315	10/7/1985	0	Shaw
Fua, Sione	DT	6-1	308	6/15/1988	0	Stanford
76 Hardy, Greg	DE	6-4	277	7/28/1988	2	Ole Miss
98 Hayden, Nick	DT	6-4	292	2/4/1986	3	Wisconsin
93 Irvin, Corvey	DT	6-3	302	5/3/1985	2	Georgia
95 Johnson, Charles	DE	6-2	275	7/10/1986	5	Georgia
99 Johnson, Frl	DE	6-2	296	12/18/1983	3	Penn State
61 Landri, Derek	DT	6-2	290	9/21/1983	5	Notre Dame
McClain, Terrell	DT	6-2	297	7/20/1988	0	South Florida
68 Neblett, Andre	DT	6-0	295	6/7/1988	2	Temple
97 Taylor, Hilee	DE	6-2	250	7/18/1986	4	North Carolina

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Alexander, Gerald	S	6-2	209	6/28/1984	5	Boise State
58 Davis, Thomas	LB	6-0	240	3/22/1983	7	Georgia
20 Gamble, Chris	CB	6-1	200	3/11/1983	8	Ohio State
30 Godfrey, Charles	S	5-11	205	11/15/1985	4	Iowa
Hogan, Brandon	CB	5-10	190	4/1/88	0	West Virginia
25 Hudson, Marcus	S	6-2	200	11/15/1982	6	N.C. State
31 Marshall, Richard	CB	5-11	189	12/12/1984	6	Fresno State
23 Martin, Sherrod	S	6-1	198	10/12/1984	3	Troy
36 McClain, Robert	CB	5-9	195	7/22/1988	2	Connecticut
41 Munnerlyn, Captain	CB	5-8	186	4/10/1988	3	South Carolina
29 Pugh, Jordan	S	5-11	196	1/29/1988	2	Texas A&M
35 Stanford, R.J.	CB	5-10	183	5/6/1988	1	Utah
27 Wilson, C.J.	CB	6-1	195	4/2/1985	5	Baylor

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
50 Anderson, James	LB	6-2	235	9/26/1983	6	Virginia Tech
52 Beason, Jon	LB	6-0	237	1/14/1985	5	Miami (Fla.)
55 Connor, Dan	LB	6-2	231	11/2/1985	4	Penn State
59 Harris, Nic	LB	6-2	232	10/6/1986	3	Oklahoma
56 Hodge, Abdul	LB	6-0	236	9/9/1982	6	Iowa
92 Norwood, Eric	LB	6-1	241	5/24/1988	2	South Carolina
57 Senn, Jordan	LB	5-11	224	6/11/1984	4	Portland State
Ware, Sean	LB	6-2	237	1/31/1987	1	New Hampshire
53 Williams, Jamar	LB	6-0	237	6/14/1984	6	Arizona State
54 Williams, Jason	LB	6-1	244	2/21/1986	3	Western Illinois
94 Williams, Thomas	LB	6-1	240	12/25/1984	2	USC
Wilson, Lawrence	LB	6-1	229	11/16/1987	0	Connecticut

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
7 Baker, Jason	P	6-2	205	5/17/1978	11	Iowa
4 Kasay, John	K	5-10	210	10/27/1969	21	Georgia
8 Lloyd, Rhys	K	5-11	231	6/5/1982	5	Minnesota

RON RIVERA, Head coach
Rob Chudzinski, offensive coordinator; **Sean McDermott,** defensive coordinator; **Brian Murphy,** special teams coordinator; **Warren Belin,** linebackers; **Ray Brown,** asst. offensive line; **Fred Graves,** wide receivers; **Pete Hoener,** tight ends; **John Matsko,** offensive line; **Ron Meeks,** defensive backfield; **Sam Mills III,** asst. defensive line; **John Settle,** running backs; **Mike Shula,** quarterbacks; **Eric Washington,** defensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES
as of May 11

ADDITIONS
TE Jeremy Shockey (FA/Saints)

SUBTRACTIONS
None

INSIDE THE HEADSET
RON RIVERA

Rivera is an unknown commodity, but you know he has a plan. You don't interview for eight head-coaching jobs before getting the ninth without years to figure out how you want to do business. It's probably fair to assume he'll lean toward the aggressive side, especially given the coordinators he hired. His defenses have always played mean, and in his brief meetings with players before the lockout, he impressed them with that style. After nearly a decade of John Fox playing close to the vest, you sense that change will be refreshing.

year, growing as both coverage players and in run support.

The problem is at corner. Fourth-rounder Brandon Hogan would have a chance except he's coming off a torn ACL suffered late last season and may not be ready to open camp. Carolina still trusts Chris Gamble, even though he found himself in Fox's doghouse last year. Richard Marshall could be tied to the team depending on the labor situation, but he wants out—and the Panthers might not mind showing him the door. At the same time, they need him due to a lack of depth. Captain Munnerlyn is scrappy and opportunistic, but he's also physically limited and best suited to playing only a nickel role.

Robert McClain, R.J. Stanford and C.J. Wilson are all fine as fourth and fifth corners, but one of them might need to be a third, and that's a problem for a team that wants to apply pressure up front. **GRADE: C**

SPECIAL TEAMS

At age 42, John Kasay is still excellent on field goals, and moving kickoffs up five yards could make kickoff specialist Rhys Lloyd expendable. Punter Jason Baker and long snapper J.J. Jansen are solid, and Baker might draw kickoff duty if Carolina wants to save a roster spot.

It will be interesting to see how the Panthers put together coverage teams with a new emphasis on speed. The return game could use a shot in the arm, though Mike Goodson was OK on kickoffs last year. If they let Edwards (who was shaky in limited opportunities last season) return punts this year, there's a chance for improvement, since Munnerlyn was a boom-or-bust guy. **GRADE: C**

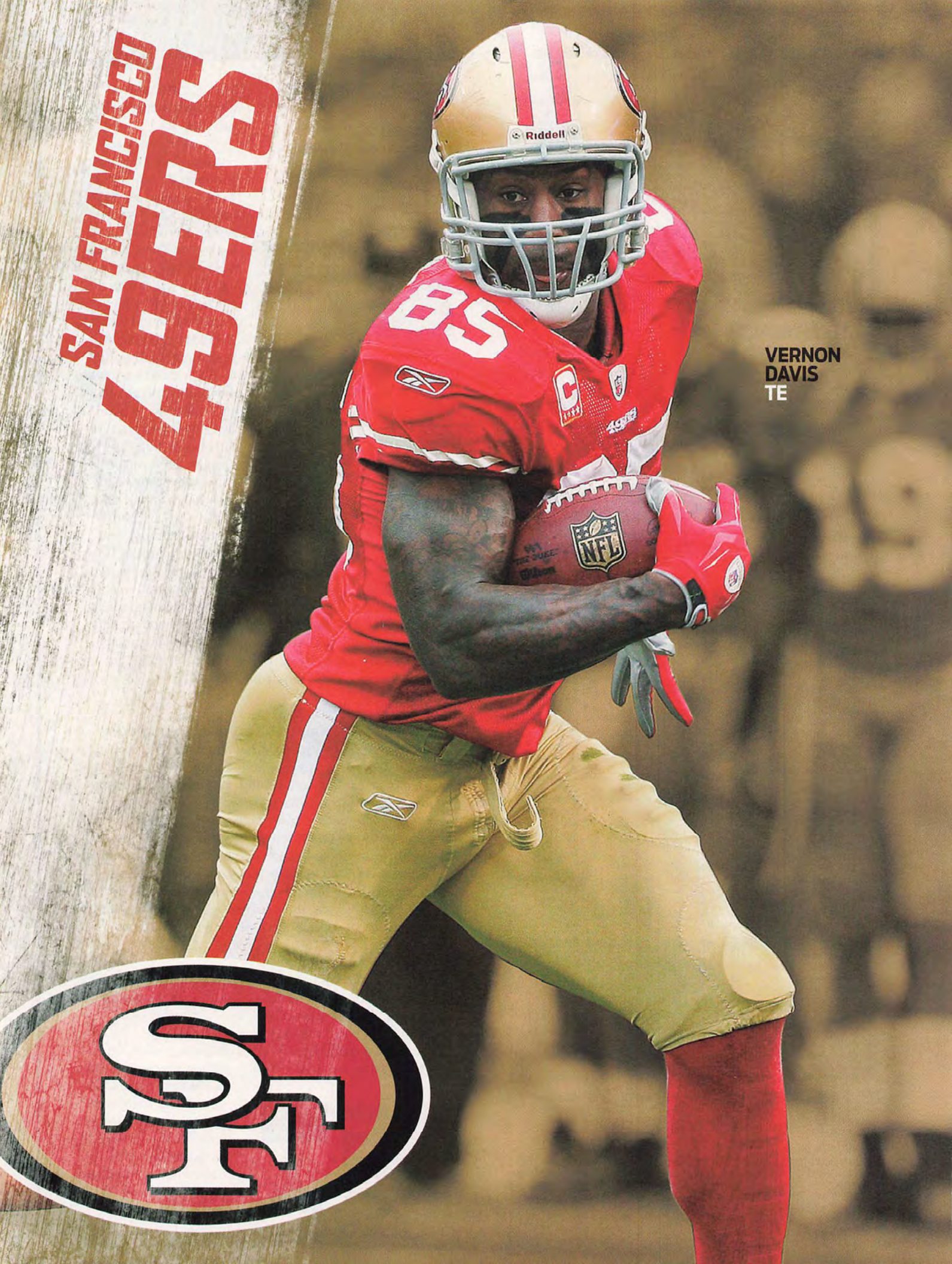
BOTTOM LINE

Rivera has the kind of parts on defense to help Carolina start rebuilding. If the offensive line and run game can insulate whichever quarterback the Panthers choose, respectability is not out of the question for 2011.

There is a significant contingent of young talent here, and harnessing it will be a challenge for a new staff that could have used a full offseason. There are too many unanswered questions to expect .500 or better, but Rivera has at least been given some tools to work with.

65
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP


SAN FRANCISCO
49ERS
VERNON
DAVIS
TE

49ers hope Harbaugh can lead them to playoff gold

By Matt Barrows *Sacramento Bee*

For the fourth time since 2003, the 49ers have a new coach. This time, however, the situation is different. Unlike recycled Dennis Erickson and then-unknown Mike Nolan, Jim Harbaugh was the hot offseason commodity and top choice of several NFL and college football teams.

But the 49ers landed him, which buoyed optimism that they will win their first NFC West title since 2002. And unlike Nolan and Mike Singletary, who both failed to develop a quarterback, Harbaugh is known as a QB guru. He has a reputation not only for picking promising passers but also knowing how to develop them. That's a huge plus for a franchise that once boasted Joe Montana and Steve Young but hasn't had a passer even sniff the Pro Bowl since Jeff Garcia did it in 2002.

OFFENSE

The 49ers will return to their roots by using a West Coast system, something they haven't had since current Packers head coach Mike McCarthy ran the offense for them in 2005. However, Harbaugh's offense won't look exactly like the elegant offenses Bill Walsh used to run. Harbaugh makes good use of tight ends and one-cut rushers, and should take advantage of a roster selected for a power-based attack.

Quarterbacks ▸ The 49ers have not had an unquestioned starter at such a critical position since they parted ways with Garcia at the end of the 2003 campaign. Alex Smith spent 2010 jousting with yet another defense-minded head coach who didn't understand the position, and still has not proven he can be a starter in the league.

However, Smith has drawn praise from Harbaugh, who appears interested in bringing the 2005 No. 1 overall pick back for his seventh season in San Francisco. Smith is an unrestricted free agent and, if he returns, it likely would only be in a one-year deal as a "bridge" quarterback for the 2011 season.

The 49ers are putting their faith in Harbaugh, a former NFL quarterback who has shown a knack for finding and developing signal-callers on the collegiate level. Harbaugh has also received high marks for an analysis he did in 2002 on the quarterbacks entering the draft. He bucked conventional thinking by giving high grades to Tony Romo and David Garrard and low ones to failed picks such as Joey Harrington and David Carr.

Second-round pick Colin Kaepernick is at least a year away from contributing. However, the 49ers could ease him into the position by having him play in goal-line situations or in the Wildcat package. Kaepernick has outstanding running skills and recorded 59 rushing touchdowns at Nevada. **GRADE: D-**

Running backs ▸ Frank Gore seems to be stuck in a twisted version of

2010 RECORD

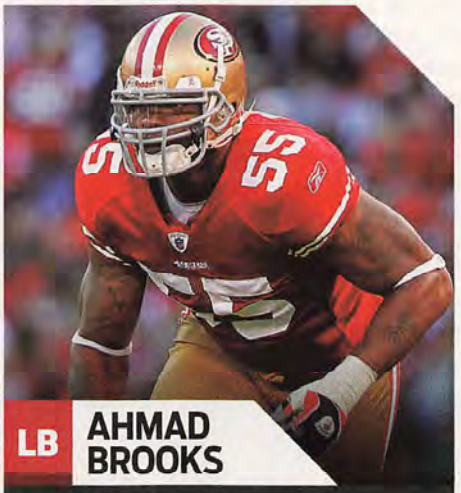
OVERALL: 6-10 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.sf49ers.com
- **STADIUM:** Candlestick Park

Capacity: 70,207 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 415-GO-49ERS

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Marie P. DeBartolo Sports Center, Santa Clara, Calif.; 408-562-4979

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB AHMAD BROOKS

New defensive coordinator Vic Fangio wants a pass rusher, and Brooks is the most talented of the players on the roster. However, he is much better at pinning his ears back and getting after the quarterback than dropping into coverage.

49ERS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Ronnie Lott (1981-90)	51	2	Jimmy Johnson (1961-76)	47	3	Kermit Alexander (1963-69)	36

NFC WEST **1**

SN PICK **9-7**

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Alex Smith Colin Kaepernick
FB	Nate Byham Bruce Miller
RB	Frank Gore Anthony Dixon
LT	Joe Staley Alex Boone
LG	Mike Iupati Tony Wragge
C	David Baas Tony Wragge
RG	Chilo Rachal Adam Snyder
RT	Anthony Davis Alex Boone
TE	Vernon Davis Delanie Walker
WR	Michael Crabtree Ted Ginn
WR	Josh Morgan Kyle Williams
DEFENSE	
DE	Isaac Sopoaga Ray McDonald
NT	Aubrayo Franklin Ricky Jean-François
DE	Justin Smith Demetric Evans
OLB	Ahmad Brooks Thaddeus Gibson
ILB	Takeo Spikes NaVorro Bowman
ILB	Patrick Willis Scott McKillop
OLB	Parys Haralson Aldon Smith
LCB	Nate Clements Tarell Brown
SS	Reggie Smith Taylor Mays
FS	Dashon Goldson Curtis Taylor
RCB	Shawntae Spencer Phillip Adams
SPECIALISTS	
K	Joe Nedney
P	Andy Lee
KR	Ted Ginn
PR	Ted Ginn
LS	Brian Jennings

RIC TAPIA / ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: TONY MEDINA / ICON SMI

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	SEATTLE	SEPT. 11	4:15	W L
WEEK 2	DALLAS	SEPT. 18	4:05	W L
WEEK 3	@ CINCINNATI	SEPT. 25	1:00	W L
WEEK 4	@ PHILADELPHIA	OCT. 2	1:00	W L
WEEK 5	TAMPA BAY	OCT. 9	4:05	W L
WEEK 6	@ DETROIT	OCT. 16	1:00	W L
WEEK 7	OPEN			
WEEK 8	CLEVELAND	OCT. 30	4:15	W L
WEEK 9	@ WASHINGTON	NOV. 6	1:00	W L
WEEK 10	N.Y. GIANTS	NOV. 13	4:15	W L
WEEK 11	ARIZONA	NOV. 20	4:05	W L
WEEK 12	@ BALTIMORE	NOV. 24	8:20	W L
WEEK 13	ST. LOUIS	DEC. 4	4:15	W L
WEEK 14	@ ARIZONA	DEC. 11	4:05	W L
WEEK 15	PITTSBURGH	DEC. 19	8:30	W L
WEEK 16	@ SEATTLE	DEC. 24	4:15	W L
WEEK 17	@ ST. LOUIS	JAN. 1	1:00	W L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

"Groundhog Day." Every season, he handles the lion's share of the 49ers' carries and leads the team in rushing. But also every season, he misses games with an injury. Gore had his most serious ailment to date in 2010, when he suffered a hip fracture in late November. Gore is also entering the final year of his contract, and the 49ers want to see whether he can remain healthy in 2011 before signing him to an extension.

Look for San Francisco to finally use a rotation at running back this year. Anthony Dixon flashed intriguing talent during the 2010 preseason but struggled in the regular season. Dixon has the size the 49ers want in a running back, but the team wants him to run lower to the ground and pick up more yardage after contact.

Fourth-round pick Kendall Hunter will rotate with Gore and Dixon and could be useful as a third-down back. Bruce Miller has a daunting task—converting from college defensive end to fullback—but has a chance to contribute if he can make the switch. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ On most teams, the wide receivers are the most prolific group of pass catchers. Not the 49ers. The heart and soul of their passing game revolves around their tight ends, particularly Vernon Davis, and that is unlikely to change with Harbaugh at the helm. Harbaugh made great use of his tight ends as head coach at Stanford and already has a strong group in Davis, Delanie Walker and blocker Nate Byham. Davis led the 49ers in every receiving category last year, including receptions (56), yards (914) and touchdown catches (7).

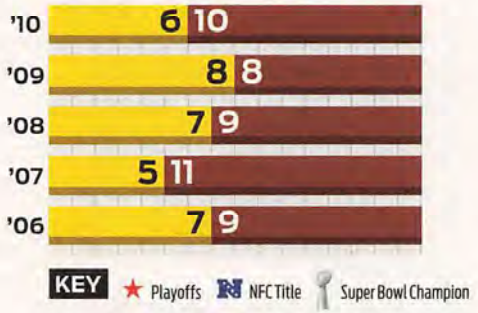
On the flip side, receiver Michael Crabtree did not flourish in his second season after an impressive rookie campaign. He missed his second straight preseason, this time with a neck injury, and his lack of chemistry with Smith in the pocket was evident early on. Crabtree has the potential to shine in Harbaugh's West Coast system but must put in the required time.

The 49ers also need receivers Josh Morgan, Ted Ginn, Dominique Zeigler, Kyle Williams and Kevin Jurovich to make a bigger impact this year. Morgan, the team's strongest wideout, has been the No. 2 receiver in recent years, but played a bigger part in the running game than the passing attack. **GRADE: B-**

Offensive line ▸ Singletary gambled last season by starting two rookies—first-round picks Anthony Davis and Mike Iupati—on the offensive line, and Harbaugh will reap the benefits. Both rookies went through the requisite growing pains in 2010 and should be more dependable in Year 2.

The star of the group may be Iupati, who has a striking combination of size and maneuverability. The left guard became a battering ram in the team's rushing attack last season and should flourish in 2011. The 49ers also seemed to find their future center in David Baas, who

5-YEAR RECORD: 33-47



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the 49ers)

"Their level of talent is definitely their strength. I'd definitely say they have the strongest talent in their division. They just haven't taken advantage of it. The previous coaching staff seemed to be playing to an ideal and not to the strength of the team. It was an ideal that wasn't really consistent with the playmakers. ...

"It's not only a talented roster, but it's a young roster. I think the sky is the limit with a new, young coaching staff that matches their personnel really well. One of their problems is that (quarterback) Alex Smith never had any consistency. He hasn't had the same coach or the same coordinator. You have to be very, very talented to overcome that, and I'm not sure anyone can. With (new coach) Jim Harbaugh, whether it's Smith or another quarterback, you're at least going to have some consistency. I think offensively they should find some success."

FANTASY SPIN

Frank Gore is recovering from a surgically repaired hip, so be sure to grab insurance if he's your No. 1 tailback. Gore has missed at least two games in each of the past three seasons.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

TONY MEDINA / ICON SMI

THE BOOK ON ...

PATRICK WILLIS

"I think overall he's probably one of the top three linebackers in the league today, particularly inside linebackers, and he's the leader of that defense. He's extremely fast, particularly side to side. Probably where he has the most trouble is where a guard or bigger fullback can get directly up on him. ...

"I wouldn't call him necessarily light, but that's where he can get into some trouble. He's gotten better in pass coverage. I think he's shown improvement in that area. So that makes him a three-down (linebacker). It'll be interesting to see what schemes they run out there this year with (former coach Mike) Singletary leaving."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	313.3	24
Rushing	103.6	19
Passing	209.8	18
Scoring	305	24
Punt Returns	11.8	7
Kick Returns	19.5	30
Red Zone TD %	47.6	25
Total Defense	327.8	13
Against Rush	96.7	6
Against Pass	231.1	24
Points Allowed	346	16
Interceptions	15	17t
Sacks	36	14t
Turnover Diff.	-1	15t

looked more comfortable at that position than guard, where he had been lining up since 2005.

One concern is left tackle Joe Staley, who for the second straight year missed half the season due to injuries and had to be replaced by veteran Barry Sims. Right guard Chilo Rachal must also be more consistent. **GRADE: B**

DEFENSE

Incoming coordinator Vic Fangio studied alongside current Packers defensive coordinator Dom Capers while the two were at Carolina and Houston. Like Capers, Fangio promises to use an aggressive 3-4 system that tries to overwhelm offenses by sending pass rushers from all angles. Fangio, however, must find the right personnel. The 49ers haven't had a serious pass-rushing threat in years, and their pass coverage has also been spotty.

Defensive line ▸ Ends who play in 3-4 defenses aren't supposed to lead their team in sacks. But that's what Justin Smith did in 2010, finishing with 8.5 sacks and 70 combined tackles, good enough for his second straight trip to the Pro Bowl. Smith, a pricey free-agent signing in 2008, has turned out to be worth the expense. He's one of the hardest-working players in the weight room, and led player workouts during the lockout.

Free agent Aubrayo Franklin had another solid year at nose tackle, but the team needs to begin looking for his replacement. Left end Isaac Sopoaga isn't asked to make a lot of flashy plays but has been good at occupying blockers and clogging the opposition's running game.

Ray McDonald gives the team a good third-down pass rusher, while Ricky Jean-Francois showed promise as a backup nose tackle and also contributed at all three positions on the line.

GRADE: B+

Linebackers ➤ This is the heart and soul of the defense, one the 49ers hope will revolve around Patrick Willis for the next decade. The team gave Willis a five-year contract extension before last season began and he finished it by leading the 49ers in tackles and adding six sacks, his highest count to date.

However, Willis also broke his hand and missed his first game since entering the league in 2007. It appears as if injuries are the only thing that can prevent Willis from becoming one of the best linebackers in NFL history. It was the second time he suffered a broken hand with the 49ers, and he also had a bursa sac removed from his knee early in 2010.

Lining up next to Willis is veteran Takeo Spikes, who is coming off his best season as a 49er and is expected back this year. The starting outside linebackers, however, failed to put consistent pressure on the quarterback. Talented Ahmad Brooks, a backup the last two seasons, might have a more meaningful role under Fangio, who wants an aggressive, blitzing attack. First-round draft pick Aldon Smith may not start right away, although the team is likely to

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	6-31	Seattle Seahawks
09/20	L	22-25	New Orleans Saints
09/26	L	10-31	Kansas City Chiefs
10/03	L	14-16	Atlanta Falcons
10/10	L	24-27	Philadelphia Eagles
10/17	W	17-9	Oakland Raiders
10/24	L	20-23	Carolina Panthers
10/31	W	24-16	Denver Broncos
11/14	W	23-20	St. Louis Rams
11/21	L	0-21	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/29	W	27-6	Arizona Cardinals
12/05	L	16-34	Green Bay Packers
12/12	W	40-21	Seattle Seahawks
12/16	L	7-34	San Diego Chargers
12/26	L	17-25	St. Louis Rams
01/02	W	38-7	Arizona Cardinals

WON 6, LOST 10

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gore	203	853	4.2	64	3
Westbrook	77	340	4.4	30	4
Dixon	70	121	3.4	34	2
T. Smith	23	60	5.3	16	1
A. Smith	18	18	3.3	12	0
Walker	3	17	6.0	10	0
Morgan	2	11	8.5	13	0
Ginn Jr.	2	0	5.5	9	0
Norris	3	0	0.0	1	0
SAN FRANCISCO	**401**	**1657**	**4.1**	**64**	**10**
OPPONENTS	**447**	**1547**	**3.5**	**43**	**9**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Davis	56	914	16.3	66	7
Crabtree	55	741	13.5	60	6
Gore	46	452	9.8	41	2
Morgan	44	698	15.9	65	2
Walker	29	331	11.4	38	0
Westbrook	16	150	9.4	62	1
Ginn Jr.	12	163	13.6	37	1
Zeigler	9	98	10.9	20	0
Dixon	5	11	2.2	8	0
Byham	5	27	5.4	9	0
Norris	4	20	5.0	8	0
Williams	1	8	8.0	8	0
SAN FRANCISCO	**282**	**3613**	**12.8**	**66**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**358**	**3697**	**10.3**	**71**	**25**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
A. Smith	342	204	2370	14	10
T. Smith	145	73	1176	5	4
Carr	13	5	67	0	1
SAN FRANCISCO	**500**	**282**	**3613**	**19**	**15**
OPPONENTS	**550**	**358**	**3941**	**25**	**15**

SACKS SAN FRANCISCO 36, OPPONENTS 44

J. Smith 8.5, Willis 6, Brooks 5, LaBoy 5, Haralson 4, Lawson 2.5, Sopoaga 1.5, Clements 1, Goldson 1, Jean-Francois 1, Spencer 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

The 49ers emerged from the 2011 draft with a starter at outside linebacker in **Aldon Smith**, who has tremendous potential for their 3-4 scheme. They also came away with a developmental quarterback in **Colin Kaepernick**. He has the size, arm strength, athletic ability and production to be a starter, but needs a year to learn and have his throwing motion adjusted.

San Francisco selected a couple of offensive linemen to serve as backups in **Daniel Kilgore** and **Michael Person**, and nabbed a potential starter at cornerback in **Chris Culliver**. Sixth-round pick **Ron Johnson** should compete for playing time at wide receiver right away, while sack-master **Bruce Miller** may force his way onto the field in passing situations.

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	7	Aldon Smith	DE	6-4	263	Missouri
2	4	Colin Kaepernick	QB	6-5	233	Nevada
3	16	Chris Culliver	CB	6-0	201	South Carolina
4	18	Kendall Hunter	RB	5-7	200	Oklahoma State
5	32	Daniel Kilgore	OG	6-3	308	Appalachian State
6	17	Ronald Johnson	WR	5-11	199	USC
6	25	Colin Jones	SS	6-0	205	TCU
7	8	Bruce Miller	OLB	6-1	254	UCF
7	36	Mike Person	G	6-4	299	Montana State
7	47	Curtis Holcomb	CB	5-10	190	Florida A&M

HOWARD SMITH / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
5 Carr, David	QB	6-3	216	7/21/79	10	Fresno State
Kaepernick, Colin	QB	6-5	233	11/3/87	0	Nevada
11 Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	217	5/7/84	7	Utah
1 Smith, Troy	QB	6-0	217	7/20/84	5	Ohio State

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
64 Baas, David	C	6-4	330	9/28/81	7	Michigan
75 Boone, Alex	T	6-7	328	5/4/87	2	Ohio State
76 Davis, Anthony	T	6-5	323	10/11/89	2	Rutgers
66 Heitmann, Eric	C	6-3	312	2/24/80	10	Stanford
60 Howell, Nick	T	6-5	295	10/10/86	1	USC
77 Iupati, Mike	G	6-5	331	5/12/87	2	Idaho
86 Jennings, Brian	LS	6-5	242	10/14/76	12	Arizona State
Kilgore, Daniel	G	6-3	308	12/18/87	0	Appalachian State
61 Patrick, Chris	T	6-5	305	8/22/84	3	Nebraska
Person, Mike	G	6-4	299	6/17/88	0	Montana State
62 Rachal, Chilo	G	6-5	323	3/15/86	4	USC
65 Sims, Barry	T	6-5	300	12/1/74	13	Utah
68 Snyder, Adam	T	6-6	325	1/30/82	7	Oregon
74 Staley, Joe	T	6-5	315	8/30/84	5	Central Michigan
69 Wragge, Tony	G	6-4	310	8/14/79	7	New Mexico State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
24 Dixon, Anthony	RB	6-1	233	9/24/87	2	Mississippi State
21 Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	217	5/14/83	7	Miami (Fla.)
Hunter, Kendall	RB	5-7	200	9/16/88	0	Oklahoma State
Miller, Bruce	RB	6-1	254	8/6/87	0	UCF
44 Norris, Moran	RB	6-1	250	6/16/78	11	Kansas
33 Omon, Xavier	RB	5-11	227	2/15/85	3	Northwest Missouri State
20 Westbrook, Brian	RB	5-10	203	9/2/79	10	Villanova

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
82 Byham, Nate	TE	6-4	268	6/27/88	2	Pittsburgh
83 Cloherty, Colin	TE	6-2	245	9/16/87	1	Brown
15 Crabtree, Michael	WR	6-1	214	9/14/87	3	Texas Tech
85 Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	250	1/31/84	6	Maryland
19 Ginn, Ted	WR	5-11	180	4/12/85	5	Ohio State
Johnson, Ronald	WR	5-11	199	8/3/88	0	USC
14 Jurovich, Kevin	WR	6-0	188	6/30/86	1	San Jose State
18 Long, Lance	WR	5-11	186	5/4/85	2	Mississippi State
84 Morgan, Josh	WR	6-0	219	6/20/85	4	Virginia Tech
46 Walker, Delanie	WR	6-0	242	8/12/84	6	Central Missouri State
10 Williams, Kyle	WR	5-10	186	7/19/88	2	Arizona State
17 Zeigler, Dominique	WR	6-3	185	10/11/84	3	Baylor

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
93 Evans, Demetric	DE	6-4	275	9/3/79	10	Georgia
92 Franklin, Aubrayo	DT	6-1	317	8/27/80	9	Tennessee
59 Gibson, Thaddeus	DE	6-2	243	10/21/87	2	Ohio State
98 Haralson, Parys	DE	6-0	255	1/24/84	6	Tennessee
95 Jean-Francois, Ricky	DT	6-3	295	11/23/86	3	LSU
54 LaBoy, Travis	DE	6-3	250	8/20/81	7	Hawaii
91 McDonald, Ray	DT	6-3	290	9/2/84	5	Florida
94 Smith, Justin	DE	6-4	285	9/30/79	11	Missouri
90 Sopoaga, Isaac	DT	6-2	330	9/4/81	8	Hawaii
63 Tukuafu, Will	DE	6-3	272	1/3/84	1	Oregon

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
35 Adams, Phillip	CB	5-11	193	7/20/88	2	South Carolina State
26 Brock, Tramaine	CB	5-10	197	8/20/88	2	Belhaven College
25 Brown, Tarell	CB	5-10	193	1/6/85	5	Texas
22 Clements, Nate	CB	6-0	205	12/12/79	11	Ohio State
Culliver, Chris	CB	6-0	201	8/17/88	0	South Carolina
38 Goldson, Dashon	S	6-2	200	9/18/84	5	Washington
Holcomb, Curtis	CB	5-10	190	9/3/88	0	Florida A&M
Jones, Colin	S	6-0	205	10/27/87	0	TCU
40 Maragos, Chris	S	5-10	200	1/6/87	2	Wisconsin
23 Mays, Taylor	S	6-3	230	2/7/88	2	USC
31 James, William	CB	6-0	200	6/15/79	11	Western Illinois
30 Smith, Reggie	CB	6-1	200	9/3/86	4	Oklahoma
36 Spencer, Shawntae	CB	6-1	190	2/22/82	8	Pittsburgh
27 Spillman, C.J.	S	6-0	199	5/6/86	3	Marshall
28 Taylor, Curtis	S	6-2	209	7/13/85	3	LSU

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
53 Bowman, NaVorro	LB	6-0	242	5/28/87	2	Penn State
55 Brooks, Ahmad	LB	6-3	259	3/14/84	6	Virginia
58 Joseph, Alex	LB	6-2	240	7/6/88	1	Temple
57 Kristick, Keaton	LB	6-3	234	4/25/88	2	Oregon State
99 Lawson, Manny	LB	6-5	240	7/3/84	6	N.C. State
56 McKillop, Scott	LB	6-1	244	3/4/86	3	Pittsburgh
Smith, Aldon	LB	6-4	263	11/30/89	0	Missouri
51 Spikes, Takeo	LB	6-2	242	12/17/76	14	Auburn
52 Willis, Patrick	LB	6-1	240	1/25/85	5	Ole Miss

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
6 Nedney, Joe	K	6-5	220	3/22/73	16	San Jose State
3 Reed, Jeff	K	5-11	225	4/9/79	10	North Carolina
Scaccia, Fabrizio	K	6-1	210	8/21/84	1	Indian River CC
4 Lee, Andy	P	6-2	180	8/11/82	8	Pittsburgh

JIM HARBAUGH, Head coach

Greg Roman, offensive coordinator; **Vic Fangio,** defensive coordinator; **Brad Seely,** asst. head coach/special teams coordinator; **Geep Chryst,** quarterbacks; **Reggie Davis,** tight ends; **Ed Donatell,** secondary; **Tim Drevno,** offensive line; **Bobby Engram,** offensive asst.; **Greg Jackson,** asst. secondary coach; **Jim Leavitt,** linebackers; **John Morton,** wide receivers; **Tom Rathman,** running backs; **Mike Solari,** offensive line; **Jim Tomsula,** defensive line

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

None

INSIDE THE HEADSET

JIM HARBAUGH

Like outgoing 49ers coach Mike Singletary, Harbaugh strives for a power-based attack using a fullback or multiple-tight end sets. But unlike Singletary, Harbaugh uses an array of formations and motions to keep defenses on their heels. Harbaugh is aggressive and competitive, and his college teams have taken on their coach's disposition.

utilize his pass-rush skills on third downs early in the season. **GRADE: A-**

Secondary › The 49ers' secondary was a weak spot in 2010. The team finished 24th in pass defense, and even middling quarterbacks such as Carolina's Matt Moore seemed to have career games when they played the 49ers. That's due to the team's anemic pass rush and also because two starters, cornerback Nate Clements and safety Taylor Mays, struggled in deep coverage. Mays was replaced in the lineup by Reggie Smith, who worked well with Dashon Goldson.

Clements, meanwhile, hasn't lived up to his billing as a shutdown corner. His contract becomes burdensome in 2011, and he will either have to restructure his salary or it's likely he'll be cut. On the other side of the field, Shawntae Spencer is good enough to be the team's No. 2 cornerback but he also struggled last season, particularly in games against pass-happy teams such as the Packers. The team has several young corners in Tarell Brown, Phillip Adams and Tramaine Brock. Brown has been inconsistent, while Adams and Brock are not ready for starring roles at this point in their careers. **GRADE: C-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Joe Nedney was as reliable as always in 2010, but for the second year in a row the 38-year-old missed multiple games with injury. The 49ers may not replace him this year but they need to start looking for prospects. At punter, Andy Lee has one of the highest net averages in the league, and long snapper Brian Jennings remains the best at his position. Ginn was secure as a punt returner and took one 78 yards into the end zone against St. Louis in Week 17. Kick returns, however, ranked near the bottom last year, something that incoming coordinator Brad Seely must fix. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

The 49ers appear poised to head into yet another season with Alex Smith as the starting quarterback. The difference this year is that he has an offense-minded coach at the helm. The hope in San Francisco is that Harbaugh can play to Smith's strengths and help mask his weaknesses.

San Francisco has a strong offensive roster and a potentially good defensive one, too, especially if rookie Aldon Smith develops. How quickly the team can adjust to Harbaugh's and Fangio's new schemes will determine whether it can capture a division title in the weak NFC West.

89
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
UP

2

NFC WEST

SN PICK 7-9

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Sam Bradford A.J. Feeley
FB	Brit Miller Michael Hoomanawanui
RB	Steven Jackson Keith Toston
LT	Rodger Saffold Renardo Foster
LG	Jacob Bell John Greco
C	Jason Brown Hank Fraley
RG	Adam Goldberg John Greco
RT	Jason Smith Ryan McKee
TE	Michael Hoomanawanui Lance Kendricks
WR	Mark Clayton Austin Pettis
WR	Brandon Gibson Danny Amendola
DEFENSE	
DE	Chris Long C.J. Ah You
DT	Fred Robbins Jermelle Cudjo
DT	Gary Gibson Darell Scott
DE	James Hall Robert Quinn
SLB	Na'il Diggs David Vobora
MLB	James Laurinaitis Josh Hull
WLB	Larry Grant Chris Chamberlain
LCB	Ron Bartell Justin King
SS	James Butler Jermale Hines
FS	Craig Dahl Darian Stewart
RCB	Bradley Fletcher Jerome Murphy
SPECIALISTS	
K	Josh Brown
P	Donnie Jones
KR	Danny Amendola
PR	Danny Amendola
LS	Chris Massey

Rams must stay tough in their quest for NFC West crown

By Jim Thomas *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

After being lost in the wilderness for three seasons (a period when the team lost 42 of 48 games), the Rams came oh-so-close to breaking out in 2010. Granted, it came in the NFC Worst, er, West, but a prime-time victory in the regular-season finale at Seattle would have propelled St. Louis to its first division title since 2003 and first playoff berth since 2004.

It didn't happen, but a 7-9 finish represented massive improvement over the 1-15 train wreck of a year earlier. The challenge now in what still figures to be a weak West is to take that next step and win the division title. St. Louis has a core of young veterans who should only get better, but the schedule is daunting and Stan Kroenke is watching. With a year under his belt as majority owner, he wants to see progress in Year 3 of coach Steve Spagnuolo's tenure.

OFFENSE

On many levels, Josh McDaniels was a disaster as a head coach in Denver. But no one doubts his offensive acumen, particularly in the passing game. St. Louis represents a great opportunity for him as a coordinator to restore his name and résumé. McDaniels is an experienced play-caller and, ideally, he would like to take more chances and throw the ball downfield more than his predecessor, Pat Shurmur. That will put more pressure on the pass blockers and place more responsibility on the shoulders of the quarterback.

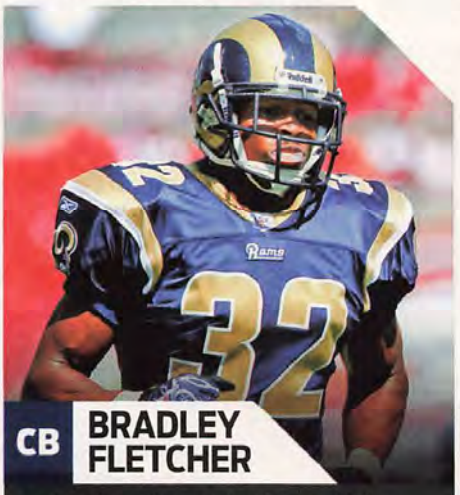
Quarterbacks ▸ Determined to prove his durability, Sam Bradford played every offensive snap as a rookie, shaking off the occasional attempt by Spagnuolo to sit him in late-game situations with the final score decided. Bradford was the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year, but needs to be even better in Year 2. That means smarter throws and more production in the red zone, and Bradford needs to start engineering late-game comebacks—something that eluded him as a rookie.

But there appears to be no doubt that Bradford has everything needed to be a Pro Bowl quarterback—with the exception of a strong supporting cast. He has a toughness and tenacity about him, which bodes well as he learns a new offense from McDaniels.

A.J. Feeley is the perfect backup because he has a veteran's perspective, accepts his role and can be a valuable sounding board. However, Feeley hasn't thrown a regular-season pass since 2007, so who knows what will happen if Bradford misses a game or two? **GRADE: B-**

Running backs ▸ Bradford may be the future of the Rams, but Steven Jackson remains the team's unquestioned leader. That leadership blossomed last season when Jackson battled through a painful

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



CB BRADLEY FLETCHER

Even though he wasn't at full speed following major knee surgery, Fletcher played more defensive snaps in 2010 than any Ram and led the team in interceptions (4). Fletcher is learning how to make plays on the ball, and could elevate his game this season if his knee holds up.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 7-9 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.stlouisrams.com
- **STADIUM:** Edward Jones Dome

Capacity: 65,321 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 314-425-8830

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Russell Training Center, Earth City, Mo.; 314-516-8852

RAMS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Eddie Meador (1959-70)	46	2	Nolan Cromwell (1977-87)	37	3	LeRoy Irvin (1980-89)	34

CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI ; OPPOSITE PAGE: ICON SMI

ST. LOUIS
RAMS
STEVEN
JACKSON
RB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	PHILADELPHIA	SEPT. 11	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 2	@ N.Y. GIANTS	SEPT. 19	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 3	BALTIMORE	SEPT. 25	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 4	WASHINGTON	OCT. 2	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 5	OPEN			
WEEK 6	@ GREEN BAY	OCT. 16	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 7	@ DALLAS	OCT. 23	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 8	NEW ORLEANS	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 9	@ ARIZONA	NOV. 6	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 10	@ CLEVELAND	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 11	SEATTLE	NOV. 20	4:05	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 12	ARIZONA	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 13	@ SAN FRANCISCO	DEC. 4	4:15	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 14	@ SEATTLE	DEC. 12	8:30	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 15	CINCINNATI	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 16	@ PITTSBURGH	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L — SCORE
WEEK 17	SAN FRANCISCO	JAN. 1	1:00	W / L — SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

groin injury and a broken finger to play in all 16 games, rush for 1,241 yards and catch 46 passes. He will remain a centerpiece of the offense, but early signals are that McDaniels will try to give him a little more help via free agency. So it wouldn't be surprising to see Jackson's workload decrease this season, as only Thomas Jones has more NFL carries since 2005, Jackson's first year as a starter.

The basic elements of Jackson's game remain the same: a blend of size, power and functional speed with the ability to move the pile. His yards-per-carry average a year ago was a career-low 3.8, but at age 28 Jackson should have two or three years left as an elite-level runner. McDaniels uses a lot of one-back sets, but Brit Miller will do an adequate job when called upon as a lead blocker. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers > Spoiled for most of a decade by Isaac Bruce, Torry Holt & Co., the Rams are still searching for answers at wideout. They need someone with enough speed to stretch defenses and be more threatening on the perimeter to keep opponents from stacking the box against Jackson. In short, St. Louis needs a true difference-maker. It would help if Donnie Avery and Mark Clayton stayed healthy and productive, as they combined to play only five regular-season games last year.

If Danario Alexander can move past his injury concerns (he's had five knee surgeries by age 22), that would bring another dimension to the offense. Any improved presence on the outside makes the tough and resourceful Danny Amendola more effective in the slot. Draft picks Austin Pettis and Greg Salas don't have home run speed but are smart, tough possession receivers with good hands.

St. Louis is hoping 2011 second-round pick Lance Kendricks will be a playmaker at tight end. Putting Kendricks and Michael Hoomanawanui on the field at the same time should create matchup problems for opposing defenses. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line > Rodger Saffold was one of the pleasant surprises in the 2010 draft. He may not be a future Hall of Famer like longtime Rams left tackle Orlando Pace, but he looks like a fixture there for years. Saffold held up better than anticipated as a pass blocker, frequently protecting Bradford's blind side, mostly without any help.

At right tackle, Jason Smith needs to become more consistent as a pass blocker, but should be a solid performer at worst. That may not be what you'd expect from a former No. 2 overall pick, but he should grow into the position.

The biggest question mark is the interior of the line, which struggled at times in run blocking last season. Center Jason Brown wasn't

5-YEAR RECORD: 21-59

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

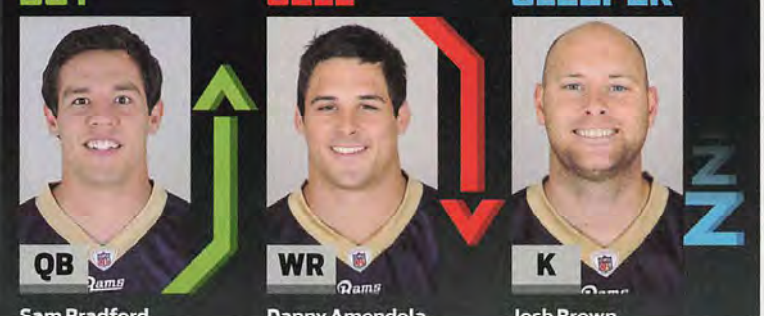
(an opponent breaks down the Rams)

"Well, the quarterback (Sam Bradford) has a chance to be special. And if you have a quarterback in this league, you have a chance. But they're easy to defend, really, or at least they were easy to defend last year. You bottle up their receivers at the line with man coverage and stack the box against that big horse in the backfield (Steven Jackson)—man, that guy comes to play every Sunday. But they don't really have any game-breakers on the perimeter. ...

"Defensively, it's a tougher nut to crack. (Coach Steve) Spagnuolo presents a lot of problems scheme-wise and can exploit your weaknesses. They've got a pair of good ends (Chris Long and James Hall) and that middle linebacker (James Laurinaitis) is a good one. (Defensive tackle) Fred Robbins was a big pickup a year ago in free agency. He really helps their interior run defense. But they do have some personnel limitations. You can get outside on those outside 'backers in the run game, and without (Oshiomogho) Atogwe at safety, I think they're very vulnerable over the middle in the passing game."

FANTASY SPIN

Steven Jackson is the only back to finish in the NFL's top three for carries in each of the past three seasons. That's a ton of touches, but Jackson can handle at least one more season like that at age 28.



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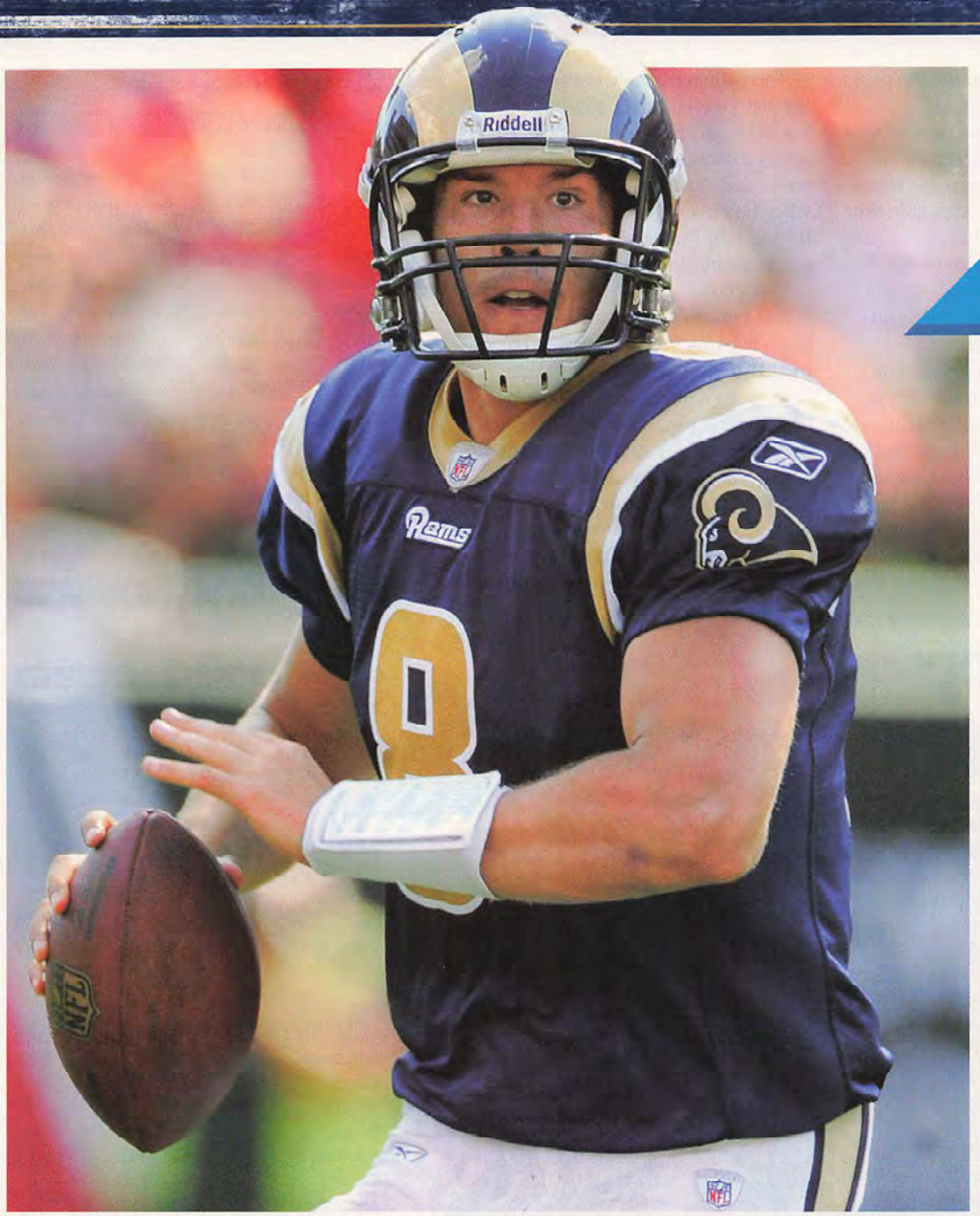


THE BOOK ON ...

SAM BRADFORD

"The Rams picked a good year to go 1-15 (in 2009) because I think Bradford has a chance to be better than any of the young quarterbacks that have come out recently. It looks like he could be one of those rare ones that makes everybody around him better. And given the overall quality of that receiver corps around him, that's a heck of a quality to have. ...

"He has shown he can take a hit; it sure looks like that throwing shoulder is a nonissue. He misses a few throws he can make, but he still looks like a plus when it comes to accuracy and arm strength. And even now, there can't be many in the league who throw better on the run. But I'd like to see him become even more of a team leader this year, and he needs to make better decisions in the red zone. I think both will come in time."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	302.9	26
Rushing	98.6	25
Passing	204.2	21
Scoring	289	26
Punt Returns	11.3	8
Kick Returns	21.8	20
Red Zone TD %	48.9	31
Total Defense	336.8	19
Against Rush	113.1	16
Against Pass	223.6	19
Points Allowed	328	12
Interceptions	14	19t
Sacks	43	7
Turnover Diff.	5	10

ICON SMI

terrible in 2010, but he was noticeably better in '09 and needs to return to that form. Jacob Bell and Adam Goldberg are finesse guards who do a better job pass blocking than moving the line of scrimmage on run plays. **GRADE: C+**

DEFENSE

Spagnuolo's fingerprints are all over this unit and he has a fairly active role on a day-to-day basis. But that shouldn't diminish Ken Flajole's work as defensive coordinator. Flajole has a low-key style that players seem to respond to and he gets a lot out of the talent. The Rams like to play man coverage with their corners pressing receivers at the line, and they aren't shy about getting aggressive with the blitz.

Defensive line ▸ The strengths of Spagnuolo's defenses while he was coordinator with the Giants were strong line play and a fierce pass rush, and some of that has transferred to St. Louis. Chris Long had a breakout year in 2010, including 8.5 sacks. The retirement of Leonard Little allowed Long more playing time and he switched to left end, his more natural position. The key now for Long is to pick up where he left off and raise his game another notch.

At right end, James Hall is coming off a near-career year with 10.5 sacks. The Rams are keeping their fingers crossed that the 34-year-old still has some tread left on the tires. And they weren't complaining when Robert Quinn fell to them in the first round at No. 14 overall. Quinn, who was ineligible for the entire 2010 season at North Carolina after receiving improper benefits, could be

rusty at first but was one of the top pass rushers in the 2011 draft class.

Tackle Fred Robbins was one of the league's most underrated free-agent signings a year ago. He provided inside pressure (6 sacks) and is a great locker room presence. At the other tackle spot, Gary Gibson does a lot of the dirty work by taking on blockers and can be a pest with his quickness and competitiveness. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ➤ There's strength up the middle with James Laurinaitis, who has established himself as one of the league's up-and-coming inside linebackers. Laurinaitis has great instincts and doesn't shy away from contact. He has some value as a blitzer and his coverage skills improved noticeably from his rookie season.

The issue remains at outside linebacker. Veteran Na'il Diggs is solid but not flashy on the strong side. His ability to hold the point of attack helps strengthen the team's run support. But when he's out of the lineup (Diggs missed the last four games of 2010 with a torn pectoral muscle), the run defense suffers.

Larry Grant, Chris Chamberlain, David Vobora and Bryan Kehl all took turns starting at weakside linebacker in 2010. Grant looks the part, but something's not there on game day, be it mental mistakes or assignment breakdowns. An upgrade is needed here via free agency. **GRADE: C-**

Secondary ➤ Starting corners Ron Bartell and Bradley Fletcher are a solid tandem. They don't give up many deep passes and are strong in run support.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	L	13-17	Arizona Cardinals
09/19	L	14-16	Oakland Raiders
09/26	W	30-16	Washington Redskins
10/03	W	20-3	Seattle Seahawks
10/10	L	6-44	Detroit Lions
10/17	W	20-17	San Diego Chargers
10/24	L	17-18	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
10/31	W	20-10	Carolina Panthers
11/14	L	20-23	San Francisco 49ers
11/21	L	17-34	Atlanta Falcons
11/28	W	36-33	Denver Broncos
12/05	W	19-6	Arizona Cardinals
12/12	L	13-31	New Orleans Saints
12/19	L	13-27	Kansas City Chiefs
12/26	W	25-17	San Francisco 49ers
01/02	L	6-16	Seattle Seahawks

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jackson	330	1241	3.8	42	6
Darby	34	107	3.1	13	2
Amendola	7	81	11.6	30	0
Bradford	27	63	2.3	17	1
Toston	19	54	2.8	10	0
Gibson	3	28	9.3	14	0
Karney	6	12	2.0	4	0
Clayton	1	6	6.0	6	0
Robinson	2	-14	-7.0	-5	0
ST. LOUIS	**429**	**1578**	**3.7**	**42**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**404**	**1810**	**4.5**	**80**	**7**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Amendola	85	689	8.1	36	3
Gibson	53	620	11.7	41	2
Jackson	46	383	8.3	49	0
Fells	41	391	9.5	36	2
Robinson	34	344	10.1	32	2
Clayton	23	306	13.3	39	2
Alexander	20	306	15.3	46	1
Bajema	14	145	10.4	26	2
Hoomanawanui	13	146	11.2	36	3
Darby	10	61	6.1	21	1
Gilyard	6	63	10.5	21	0
Karney	5	14	2.8	4	0
Toston	2	29	14.5	23	0
Onobun	2	15	7.5	8	0
ST. LOUIS	**354**	**3512**	**9.9**	**49**	**18**
OPPONENTS	**328**	**3578**	**10.9**	**65**	**21**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Bradford	590	354	3512	18	15
ST. LOUIS	**590**	**354**	**3512**	**18**	**15**
OPPONENTS	**570**	**328**	**3868**	**21**	**14**

SACKS ST. LOUIS 43, OPPONENTS 34

Hall 10.5, Long 8.5, Robbins 6, Ah You 4, Laurinaitis 3, Atogwe 2, Grant 2, Vobora 2, Selvie 1.5, Dahl 1, Lewis 1, Stewart 1, Cudjo 0.5

DRAFT REPORT

The Rams surprised a few people with the No. 14 pick by choosing defensive end **Robert Quinn**, who didn't play as a senior due to an NCAA suspension for accepting impermissible gifts. The North Carolina product should start at some point this season, but there are some concerns about his competitiveness. Second-rounder **Lance Kendricks** will serve as a receiving threat for Sam Bradford at quarterback and is an underrated blocker. **Austin Pettis** is a nice possession receiver but may not be quick enough to separate from NFL defenders, so his second-round status is suspect.

Receiver **Greg Salas** played in a passing offense and has strong hands, but will have to learn how to run NFL routes. **Jermale Hines**, **Mikail Baker** and **Jabara Williams** were drafted too high, but seventh-rounder **Jonathan Nelson** has a chance to start at free safety.

Quinn

GRADE

A B **C** D F

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	14	Robert Quinn	DE	6-4	265	North Carolina
2	15	Lance Kendricks	TE	6-3	243	Wisconsin
3	14	Austin Pettis	WR	6-2	209	Boise State
4	15	Greg Salas	WR	6-1	210	Hawaii
5	27	Jermale Hines	SS	6-1	215	Ohio State
7	13	Mikail Baker	WR	6-0	205	Baylor
7	25	Jabara Williams	OLB	6-2	223	Stephen F. Austin
7	26	Jonathan Nelson	FS	5-11	197	Oklahoma

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Bradford, Sam	QB	6-4	228	11/8/87	2	Oklahoma
4 Feeley, A.J.	QB	6-3	220	5/16/77	11	Oregon
Lewis, Thaddeus	QB	6-0	219	2/1/88	1	Duke

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
63 Bell, Jacob	G	6-4	300	3/2/81	8	Miami (Ohio)
60 Brown, Jason	C	6-3	328	5/5/83	7	North Carolina
71 Foster, Renardo	T	6-7	333	7/15/84	3	Louisville
65 Fraley, Hank	C	6-3	310	9/21/77	12	Robert Morris
73 Goldberg, Adam	T	6-7	309	8/12/80	8	Wyoming
79 Greco, John	T	6-4	329	3/24/85	4	Toledo
45 Massey, Chris	C	6-0	237	8/21/79	10	Marshall
68 McKee, Ryan	T	6-6	291	11/4/86	1	Southern Miss
67 Miller, Drew	C	6-5	303	7/6/85	2	Florida
Mower, Clint	LS	6-3	215	11/2/84	0	Utah
76 Saffold, Rodger	T	6-4	323	6/6/88	2	Indiana
66 Setterstrom, Mark	G	6-4	318	3/3/84	6	Minnesota
77 Smith, Jason	T	6-5	307	4/30/86	3	Baylor

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
34 Darby, Kenneth	RB	5-10	219	12/26/82	4	Alabama
39 Jackson, Steven	RB	6-2	236	7/22/83	7	Oregon State
38 Toston, Keith	RB	5-11	214	5/6/87	2	Oklahoma State
33 Washington, Chauncey	RB	5-11	222	4/29/85	2	USC

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
84 Alexander, Danario	WR	6-5	220	8/7/88	2	Missouri
16 Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	186	11/2/85	3	Texas Tech
17 Avery, Donnie	WR	5-11	183	6/12/84	4	Houston
47 Bajema, Billy	TE	6-4	259	10/31/82	7	Oklahoma State
89 Clayton, Mark	WR	5-10	190	7/2/82	7	Oklahoma
15 Curry, Dominique	WR	6-2	224	8/16/87	2	California (Pa.)
46 Fells, Daniel	TE	6-4	272	9/23/83	5	UC Davis
11 Gibson, Brandon	WR	6-0	210	8/13/87	3	Washington State
81 Gilyard, Mardy	WR	5-11	194	12/2/86	2	Cincinnati
Hawkins, Andrew	WR	5-8	176	3/10/86	0	Toledo
86 Hoomanawanui, Michael	TE	6-4	264	7/4/88	2	Illinois
87 Johnson, Darcy	TE	6-5	252	2/11/83	5	UCF
Kendricks, Lance	TE	6-3	243	1/30/88	0	Wisconsin
Mathews, Greg	WR	6-3	207	1/28/88	1	Michigan
48 Onobun, Fendi	TE	6-6	249	11/17/86	2	Houston
Pettis, Austin	WR	6-2	209	5/1/88	0	Boise State
19 Robinson, Laurent	WR	6-2	197	5/20/85	5	Illinois State
Salas, Greg	WR	6-1	210	8/25/88	0	Hawaii
88 Schouman, Derek	TE	6-2	223	3/11/85	5	Boise State
West, Joe	WR	6-1	215	2/1/84	1	UTEP

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
99 Ah You, C.J.	DE	6-4	270	7/7/82	3	Oklahoma
68 Cudjo, Jermelle	DT	6-2	299	9/28/86	2	Central Oklahoma
71 Gibson, Gary	DT	6-3	300	5/5/82	6	Rutgers
96 Hall, James	DE	6-2	281	2/4/77	12	Michigan
93 Hovan, Chris	DT	6-2	296	5/12/78	12	Boston College
52 Johnson, Curtis	DE	6-3	254	2/16/85	3	Clark Atlanta
72 Long, Chris	DE	6-3	276	3/28/85	4	Virginia
Quinn, Robert	DE	6-4	265	5/18/90	0	North Carolina
98 Robbins, Fred	DT	6-4	325	3/26/77	12	Wake Forest
95 Ryan, Clifton	DT	6-3	324	2/18/84	5	Michigan State
Saddler-McQueen, Jimmy	DT	6-2	299	8/4/87	1	Texas A&M-Kingsville
97 Scott, Darell	DT	6-3	315	3/15/86	3	Clemson
67 Selvie, George	DE	6-4	252	3/6/87	2	South Florida
92 Sims, Eugene	DE	6-5	250	3/18/86	2	West Texas A&M

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Baker, Mikail	CB	6-0	205	6/19/87	0	Baylor
24 Bartell, Ron	CB	6-1	206	2/22/82	7	Howard
37 Butler, James	S	6-3	209	9/7/82	7	Georgia Tech
36 Butler, Quincy	CB	6-1	188	11/25/83	4	TCU
43 Dahl, Craig	S	6-1	209	6/17/85	5	North Dakota State
35 Dockery, Kevin	CB	5-8	188	1/8/84	6	Mississippi State
32 Fletcher, Bradley	CB	6-0	198	6/25/86	3	Iowa
Hines, Jermale	S	6-1	215	11/11/87	0	Ohio State
Johnson, Marquis	CB	5-11	206	5/18/88	1	Alabama
31 King, Justin	CB	5-11	188	5/11/87	4	Penn State
22 Lewis, Michael	S	6-1	222	4/29/80	10	Colorado
23 Murphy, Jerome	CB	6-0	200	1/13/87	2	South Florida
Nelson, Jonathan	S	5-11	197	5/6/88	0	Oklahoma
20 Stewart, Darian	S	5-11	215	8/4/88	2	South Carolina

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
57 Chamberlain, Chris	LB	6-1	230	9/30/85	4	Tulsa
53 Diggs, Na'il	LB	6-4	240	7/8/78	12	Ohio State
59 Grant, Larry	LB	6-1	251	2/16/85	3	Ohio State
56 Hull, Josh	LB	6-3	239	5/21/87	2	Penn State
50 Kehl, Bryan	LB	6-2	237	6/16/84	4	BYU
55 Laurinaitis, James	LB	6-2	247	12/3/86	3	Ohio State
47 Miller, Brit	LB	6-0	243	9/15/86	3	Illinois
51 Nixon, David	LB	6-3	225	3/16/85	3	BYU
Simpkins, Maurice	LB	6-0	236	4/29/83	1	Coastal Carolina
58 Vobora, David	LB	6-1	239	4/8/86	4	Idaho
Williams, Jabara	LB	6-2	223	7/6/89	0	Stephen F. Austin

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Brown, Josh	K	6-0	205	4/29/79	9	Nebraska
5 Jones, Donnie	P	6-2	225	7/5/80	8	LSU

STEVE SPAGNUOLO, Head coach

Josh McDaniels, offensive coordinator; **Ken Flajole,** defensive coordinator; **Tom McMahon,** special teams coordinator; **Richard Curl,** asst. head coach/quarterbacks; **Nolan Cromwell,** wide receivers; **Sylvester Croom,** running backs; **Andre Curtis,** defensive backs/safeties; **Brendan Daly,** defensive line; **Paul Ferraro,** linebackers; **Frank Leonard,** tight ends; **Steve Loney,** offensive line; **Clayton Lopez,** defensive backs/cornerbacks

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

S Oshiomogho Atogwe (FA/Redskins),
FB Mike Karney (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

STEVE SPAGNUOLO

Like many defense-oriented head coaches, Spagnuolo's overall philosophy is conservative. On offense, that translates into a scheme that doesn't take many chances and rarely looks downfield. Personnel limitations factored into that last year, especially with a rookie QB and receivers who couldn't consistently get off the line. That could change this year with more experience and a new coordinator.

However, Bartell's ball skills remain an issue. He's tough, durable and a team leader, but Bartell drops two or three interceptions every year.

St. Louis has a hole at nickel back, where Justin King and Jerome Murphy are among the leading candidates to start in 2011. King has played well when on the field, but can't stay healthy. Murphy has tremendous physical skill and isn't afraid to mix it up as a tackler. However, he needs to polish his technique and do better on his assignments.

At safety, the team must replace 2010 defensive captain Oshiomogho Atogwe, who signed with Washington. Atogwe was one of the few players on the team with a knack for creating turnovers.

It looks like James Butler, who doesn't have great range and spent the last third of the season on the bench, will move into the starting lineup with Craig Dahl, who is an active tackler but occasionally takes bad angles to the ball. Darian Stewart has a chance to step into the No. 3 safety role after seeing limited duty in the nickel package last season. **GRADE: C-**

SPECIAL TEAMS

A Pro Bowl berth continues to elude punter Donnie Jones, but over the last four seasons only Oakland's Shane Lechler has a better gross and net average. Jones is a rock of consistency for the Rams' special teams and has improved his directional punting as his career has progressed. Josh Brown missed a couple of field goals he would like to have had back in 2010, but remains in the upper tier of NFL kickers. Brown has a league-high 28 field goals from 50-plus yards over the past eight seasons.

As usual, the return game remains problematic. Amendola is an above-average punt returner, but the search continues for a kickoff return man with the explosiveness to go the distance. **GRADE: B-**

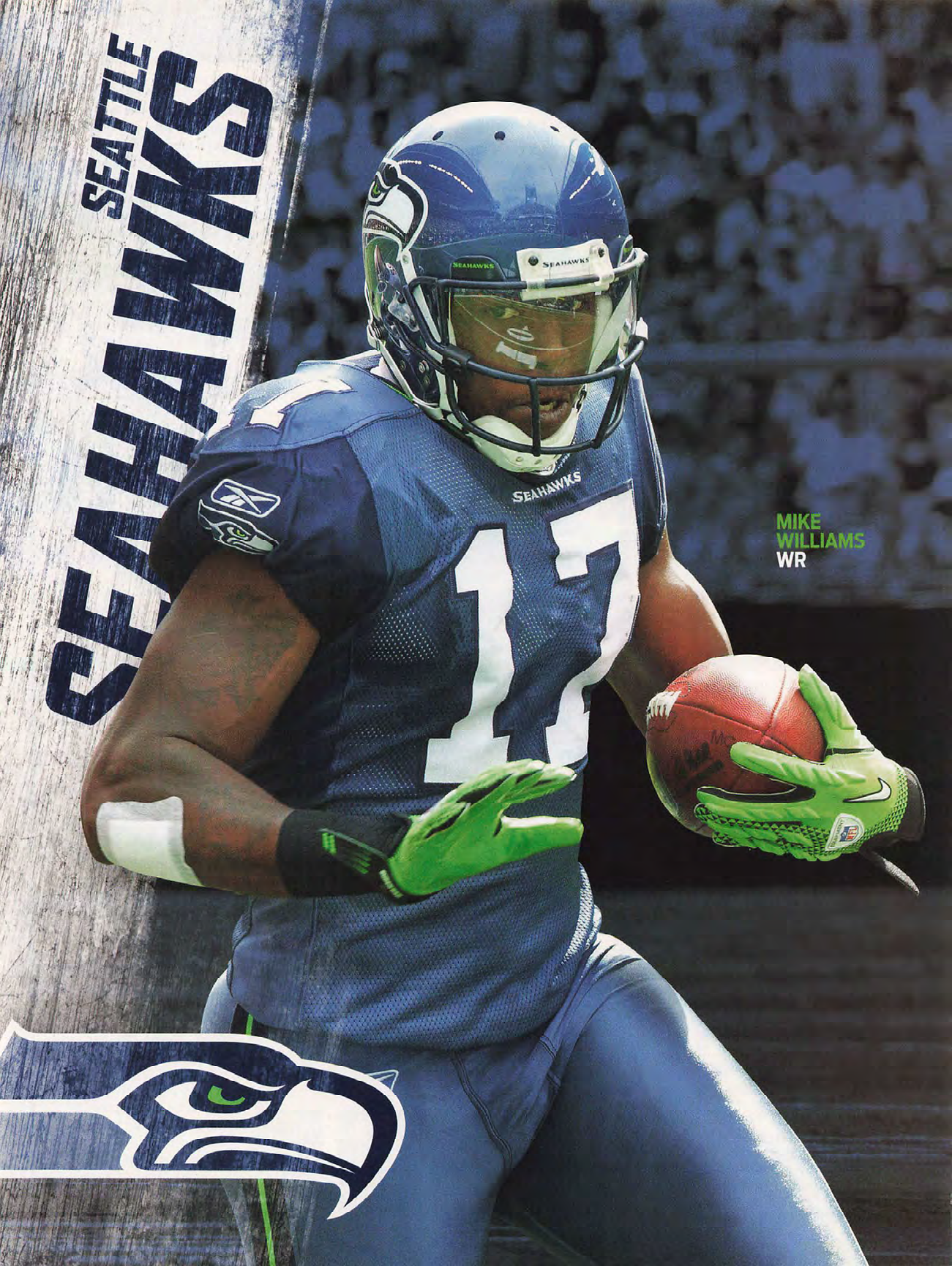
BOTTOM LINE

It's possible St. Louis could play better in 2011 yet have the same record as it did in 2010. That's because the schedule, particularly the first six weeks of the season, could be crushing. In order to succeed, the Rams' run blocking must be improved and the receivers have to step up their play.

To be a playoff contender in 2011, the Rams don't need to be just a little better on offense—they need to be about a touchdown a game better. And that's asking a lot.

79
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY


SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS
MIKE
WILLIAMS
WR

Despite surprise playoff berth in 2010, there's still work to do in Seattle

By Danny O'Neil *Seattle Times*

The housecleaning during Pete Carroll's first season as head coach took the Seahawks back to the playoffs.

Seattle's renovation, however, remains in its early stages. Don't let a 2010 NFC West title or the improbable playoff victory over New Orleans trick you into thinking these Seahawks are a finished product. Far from it, in fact.

The question Carroll inherited at quarterback is even more muddled now than a year ago, and Seattle did not have a single Pro Bowler for the second consecutive season.

That wasn't for lack of trying, however. The Seahawks made nearly 300 roster moves in 2010, reclaimed receiver Mike Williams from the recycling bin and got younger, bigger and faster all around.

"We know that we've made a lot of strides," Carroll says.

But this is a team that still has a long way to go.

OFFENSE

The Seahawks are on their fourth offensive coordinator in four years, but the hiring of Darrell Bevell marks a return to Mike Holmgren's version of the West Coast offense. That means a passing game with fewer deep throws, more timing routes and an emphasis on throwing to running backs. The biggest change in Seattle's offense, though, will come from the hiring of Tom Cable as line coach to insert some toughness and discipline and jump-start the running game.

Quarterbacks ▸ The most important position in the NFL is the biggest uncertainty in Seattle. Just how the Seahawks solve their quarterback dilemma will influence the course of Carroll's run in the Emerald City.

The Seahawks acquired Charlie Whitehurst from San Diego last year with an eye toward developing him as an heir to Matt Hasselbeck. Strong-armed and standing 6-5, Whitehurst is built to play the position but went 1-1 in two starts and showed a tendency for throwing too many interceptions.

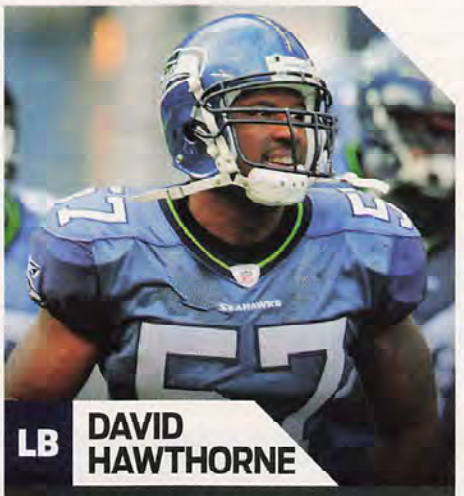
His best game of the year was the Week 17 victory over St. Louis that put Seattle in the playoffs, but even in that game he completed only one pass of more than 13 yards.

Not that Hasselbeck didn't inspire doubts as well. He committed 13 turnovers in a four-game stretch before suffering an injury in Week 16. Seattle did not choose a quarterback in the draft for the sixth time in eight years and, with Hasselbeck unsigned entering the lockout, it's not clear where the franchise is heading at that position.

GRADE: D

Running backs ▸ It's now five years and counting since Seattle's last 1,000-yard rusher. Only the Lions have a longer drought, and in that time Seattle has released a former NFL MVP (Shaun Alexander), a potential Hall of Famer

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



LB DAVID HAWTHORNE

Hawthorne led Seattle with 104 tackles in his first full year as a starter. He's a big hitter who forced three fumbles and, as the weakside linebacker, he has the freedom to make plays on defense. He'll also be playing for a new contract, so expect fireworks this season.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 7-9 HOME: 5-3

- **ONLINE:** www.seahawks.com
- **STADIUM:** Qwest Field

Capacity: 67,000 **Turf:** FieldTurf

Tickets: 888-NFL-HAWK

- **TRAINING CAMP:** Seahawks Training Facility, Renton, Wash.; 425-827-9777

SEAHAWKS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Dave Brown *(1976-86)*	50	2	Eugene Robinson *(1985-95)*	42	3	John Harris *(1978-85)*	41

NFC WEST

SN PICK 5-11

3

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Charlie Whitehurst
FB	Michael Robinson
RB	Marshawn Lynch Justin Forsett
LT	Russell Okung Tyler Polumbus
LG	Tyler Polumbus Mike Gibson
C	Max Unger John Moffitt
RG	John Moffitt Mike Gibson
RT	James Carpenter Tyler Polumbus
TE	John Carlson Cameron Morrah
WR	Mike Williams Deon Butler
WR	Ben Obomanu Golden Tate
DEFENSE	
DE	Chris Clemons Dexter Davis
DT	Brandon Mebane Junior Siavii
DT	Colin Cole Junior Siavii
DE	Red Bryant Pep Levingston
SLB	Aaron Curry K.J. Wright
MLB	Lofa Tatupu David Hawthorne
WLB	David Hawthorne K.J. Wright
LCB	Marcus Trufant Richard Sherman
SS	Kam Chancellor Mark LeGree
FS	Earl Thomas Mark LeGree
RCB	Walter Thurmond Roy Lewis
SPECIALISTS	
K	Olindo Mare
P	Jon Ryan
KR	Leon Washington
PR	Golden Tate
LS	Clint Gresham

ICON SMI; OPPOSITE PAGE: JASON O. WATSON / US PRESSWIRE

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	@ SAN FRANCISCO	SEPT. 11	4:15	W / L
WEEK 2	@ PITTSBURGH	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	ARIZONA	SEPT. 25	4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	ATLANTA	OCT. 2	4:05	W / L
WEEK 5	@ N.Y. GIANTS	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	OPEN			
WEEK 7	@ CLEVELAND	OCT. 23	1:00	W / L
WEEK 8	CINCINNATI	OCT. 30	4:15	W / L
WEEK 9	@ DALLAS	NOV. 6	1:00	W / L
WEEK 10	BALTIMORE	NOV. 13	4:05	W / L
WEEK 11	@ ST. LOUIS	NOV. 20	4:05	W / L
WEEK 12	WASHINGTON	NOV. 27	4:05	W / L
WEEK 13	PHILADELPHIA	DEC. 1	8:20	W / L
WEEK 14	ST. LOUIS	DEC. 12	8:30	W / L
WEEK 15	@ CHICAGO	DEC. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 16	SAN FRANCISCO	DEC. 24	4:15	W / L
WEEK 17	@ ARIZONA	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L

SCORE

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

(Edgerrin James) and a failed reclamation project (LenDale White).

Marshawn Lynch, a former first-round pick Seattle acquired from Buffalo four games into last season, has been anointed the starter. And while Lynch's 67-yard touchdown run in the playoff victory over the Saints was magical, it was a rare rushing highlight in a season that saw the Seahawks average 89 yards per game in the regular season, fifth lowest in franchise history.

Seattle re-signed Leon Washington, who figures to have a consistent role in the offense but won't be anything more than a third-down specialist. Justin Forsett is a capable pro, but if the Seahawks' rushing attack is to improve, it will require Lynch returning to the Pro Bowl form of his first two years in Buffalo. **GRADE: B-**

Receivers › Williams led Seattle with 65 receptions last season, but he's just one year removed from being one of the bigger draft busts of the past decade. Deon Butler ranked second for the Seahawks with 36 catches, but he's trying to come back from a compound leg fracture that could threaten his career.

So while Seattle's receiving corps was better than most expected after the Seahawks waived T.J. Houshmandzadeh before 2010 began, it's a long way from being solidified.

Williams is a big, sure-handed target who doesn't have the speed to be a No. 1 wideout. And even if Butler recovers from his leg injury, he doesn't have the size. Ben Obomanu is a capable contributor, but he's more of a complementary piece than a mainstay.

Seattle's growth in the passing game will depend on the development of tight end John Carlson and wideout Golden Tate. Neither player fulfilled the sizable expectations they carried into the 2010 campaign. **GRADE: C-**

Offensive line › The incontinuity along Seattle's offensive line the past two seasons can be attributed to seven different players starting at left tackle since Walter Jones suffered a career-ending knee injury in November 2008.

While Russell Okung is the long-term answer at that position, he was slowed by injuries to both ankles in 2010 and never played at 100 percent in his rookie season.

Seattle used 10 different offensive-line combinations last season and, after all that tinkering, Okung and center Max Unger are the only two guaranteed starters in 2011, with a pair of rookies likely to compose the right side of the line. First-round choice James Carpenter is projected to start at right tackle, with third-round pick John Moffitt at right guard.

Hiring Cable, a former Raiders head coach, marks the third consecutive year Seattle will focus on implementing a zone-blocking scheme, each time under a different coach.

5-YEAR RECORD: 35-45

VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Seahawks)

"They're building and just trying to retool things. They got older and they had to go and do some of the things they've done just to get back where they're younger. ...

"Quarterback and offensive line—I would say those are the two things that probably jump out the most. With Matt Hasselbeck getting older, they need to have a plan for the future even if he's there. ...

"They changed their scheme under coach Pete Carroll, and how they draft. (General manager) John Schneider comes from Green Bay, a size-speed team. That's his overall philosophy, and you can see the direction they're going in. ...

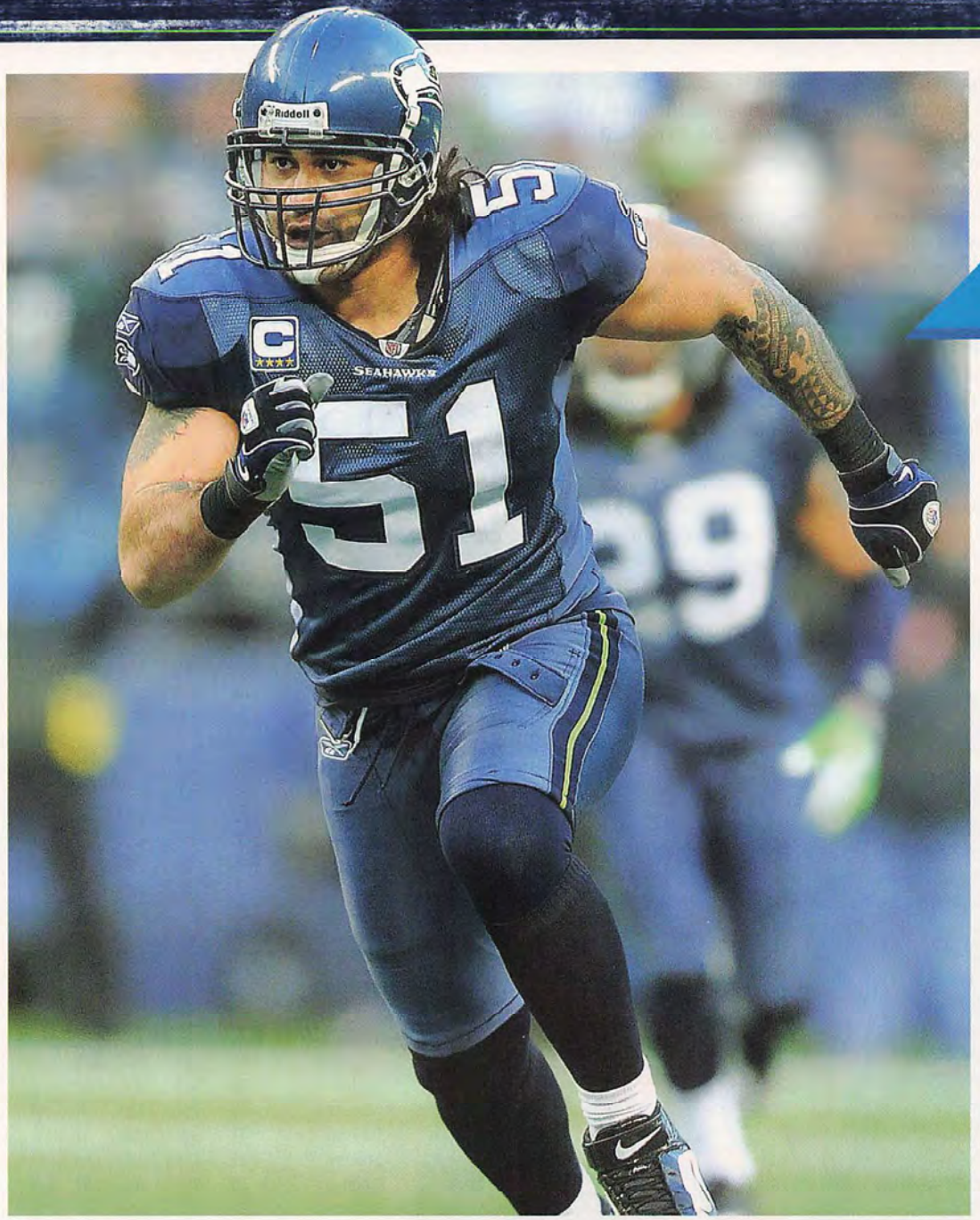
"The defense they play is a true hybrid of 4-3 and 3-4 schemes. Their right end, he's going to be a pass rusher first, and the guy on the left side is going to be a two-gap run player. He ends up on the tight-end side most of the time. ...

"Most of the 3-4 teams run more of a traditional 4-3 over-front. The Seahawks play more under and, with all those linebackers they've had, they had all those guys and they were trying to fit."

FANTASY SPIN

The Seahawks spent their first two draft picks on offensive linemen after using a first-rounder on tackle Russell Okung in 2010. This is good news for an anemic running game.

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football



KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

LOFA TATUPU

"He has a very high football IQ, a real student of the game who understands how the game flows. He's a natural leader and a tough son of a gun. If he isn't the one making a play, he's putting somebody else in a position to make it, whether that means taking on a block or filling a gap. ... Everything they're saying now—how he's slowing down, how he's small—they were saying when he was coming out of college. But you also have to figure he's in an awful situation. The defense that they play, it's not the same as it was. ...

"When he first came out into the league, he was in a unique situation. You step into a void and you fill the space adequately, and you've got people around you. Then everybody adjusts their expectations. But he's still a leader and the guy who's most important to that defense."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	297.8	28
Rushing	89.0	31
Passing	208.8	19
Scoring	310	23
Punt Returns	11.1	9
Kick Returns	24.0	10t
Red Zone TD %	42.0	29
Total Defense	368.6	27
Against Rush	118.9	21
Against Pass	249.6	27
Points Allowed	407	25
Interceptions	12	25t
Sacks	37	13
Turnover Diff.	-9	27t

Maybe Cable can establish some continuity that has escaped the Seahawks.

GRADE: D

DEFENSE

Schematically, Seattle's defense remains a 4-3. Practically, however, it has elements of a 3-4 alignment. The result is a unique, hybrid defense that was the biggest coaching wrinkle Carroll brought to Seattle. It was effective early but withered due to injuries on the line in the second half of the season. The Seahawks will be deeper this year because they know what type of players they need up front.

Defensive line ▸ The Seahawks found the format they wanted for their defensive line last season—now they just need to develop the depth.

Defensive tackles Brandon Mebane and Colin Cole were above-average starters, but what distinguishes Seattle's line is the way its defensive ends are categorized into two specific types. One of the ends is a pass-rush specialist, which is termed the "Leo" and more akin to an outside linebacker in a 3-4 scheme. Veteran Chris Clemons had a career-high 11 sacks starting at that position last season.

The other end is a five-technique, big-bodied run stuffer epitomized by former nose tackle Red Bryant. After limited playing time his first two seasons in Seattle, Bryant was a revelation at end last year until he went down with a season-ending knee injury in Game 7.

Now that the team knows what it's looking for on the line, the challenge is

to improve the depth so injuries—an inevitable part of playing along the line—don't devastate the unit. **GRADE: C**

Linebackers ▸ Two years ago the linebacker corps was forecast as the strength of the team, as Lofa Tatupu and Leroy Hill were signed to long-term contracts and Aaron Curry entered the league as the No. 4 overall draft pick.

Despite spending all those resources on linebackers, it was David Hawthorne—a former undrafted free agent—who had the best season of any Seahawk linebacker last year. Hawthorne is a big hitter with a nose for the football.

Tatupu has undergone surgery in each of the past two offseasons, while Hill has been phased out. Curry hasn't shown great instincts or versatility, which is puzzling because he was advertised as the most NFL-ready player in the 2009 draft.

Tatupu remains the cornerstone of this defense, a captain whose instincts and understanding have made up for his average speed. He was slower at the end of last season and underwent surgery on both knees in the offseason. While those operations could help him, they are also signs that he may be wearing down. **GRADE: C-**

Secondary ▸ Young safety Earl Thomas is a heck of a playmaker with a center fielder's range. He intercepted five passes last season, tying the team record for rookies. However, there's a ton of ground for him to cover at the back of this porous secondary.

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	31-6	San Francisco 49ers
09/19	L	14-31	Denver Broncos
09/26	W	27-20	San Diego Chargers
10/03	L	3-20	St. Louis Rams
10/17	W	23-20	Chicago Bears
10/24	W	22-10	Arizona Cardinals
10/31	L	3-33	Oakland Raiders
11/07	L	7-41	New York Giants
11/14	W	36-18	Arizona Cardinals
11/21	L	19-34	New Orleans Saints
11/28	L	24-42	Kansas City Chiefs
12/05	W	31-14	Carolina Panthers
12/12	L	21-40	San Francisco 49ers
12/19	L	18-34	Atlanta Falcons
12/26	L	15-38	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
01/02	W	16-6	St. Louis Rams

WON 7, LOST 9

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Lynch	165	573	3.5	39	6
Forsett	118	523	4.4	32	2
Washington	27	100	3.7	21	1
Robinson	12	77	6.4	17	0
Hasselbeck	23	60	2.6	20	3
Whitehurst	20	43	2.2	9	1
Jones	12	30	2.5	6	0
Obomanu	2	17	8.5	13	0
Butler	2	6	3.0	4	0
Tate	2	4	2.0	3	0
Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0
Ryan	1	-9	-9.0	-9	0
SEATTLE	**385**	**1424**	**3.7**	**39**	**13**
OPPONENTS	**452**	**1903**	**4.2**	**53**	**13**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Williams	65	751	11.6	68	2
Butler	36	385	10.7	63	4
Forsett	33	252	7.6	21	0
Carlson	31	318	10.3	37	1
Stokley	31	354	11.4	36	0
Obomanu	30	494	16.5	87	4
Lynch	21	138	6.6	22	0
Tate	21	227	10.8	52	0
Branch	13	112	8.6	41	1
Washington	9	79	8.8	28	0
Baker	9	116	12.9	44	1
Morrah	9	117	13.0	36	0
Robinson	8	37	4.6	13	0
Martin	7	158	22.6	61	1
Gibson	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
SEATTLE	**324**	**3536**	**10.9**	**87**	**14**
OPPONENTS	**339**	**3994**	**11.8**	**69**	**31**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Hasselbeck	444	266	3001	12	17
Whitehurst	99	57	507	2	3
Robinson	1	1	28	0	0
SEATTLE	**544**	**324**	**3536**	**14**	**20**
OPPONENTS	**585**	**339**	**4240**	**31**	**12**

SACKS SEATTLE 37, OPPONENTS 35

Clemons 11, Brock 9, Milloy 4, Curry 3.5, Babineaux 1.5, Bryant 1, Chancellor 1, Cole 1, Davis 1, Herring 1, Lewis 1, Mebane 1, Tatupu 1

DRAFT REPORT

The Seahawks became accustomed to reaching in the 2011 draft, as offensive tackle **James Carpenter**, guard **John Moffitt**, linebacker **K.J. Wright** and wide receiver **Kris Durham** were taken too early. But Seattle got it right in the fifth round by picking cornerback **Richard Sherman**, who could make his way into the starting lineup this fall. Granted, Carpenter is a potential starter, but the others could have waited, as they aren't likely to see much time this year.

Seattle's final four picks were just as surprising. **Mark LeGree** was a productive safety at Appalachian State, but his upside is limited. **Byron Maxwell**, picked one round later than LeGree, is a better athlete. **Lazarius Levingston** would be great in a 3-4 scheme, but alas, Seattle employs a 4-3. **Malcolm Smith**, taken in the final round by the Seahawks, is a good prospect at linebacker.

Carpenter

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	25	James Carpenter	OT	6-5	324	Alabama
3	11	John Moffitt	G	6-4	319	Wisconsin
4	2	K.J. Wright	OLB	6-3	246	Mississippi State
4	10	Kris Durham	WR	6-5	216	Georgia
5	23	Richard Sherman	CB	6-2	192	Stanford
5	25	Mark LeGree	FS	6-0	211	Appalachian State
6	8	Byron Maxwell	CB	6-1	207	Clemson
7	2	Lazarius Levingston	DE	6-3	292	LSU
7	39	Malcolm Smith	OLB	6-1	225	USC

CHUCK COOK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
8 Hasselbeck, Matt	QB	6-4	225	9/25/75	13	Boston College
7 Losman, J.P.	QB	6-2	217	3/12/81	7	Tulane
6 Whitehurst, Charlie	QB	6-5	225	8/6/82	6	Clemson

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
77 Andrews, Stacy	T	6-7	340	6/2/81	8	Ole Miss
Carpenter, James	T	6-5	324	3/22/89	0	Alabama
66 Fanaika, Paul	G	6-5	327	4/9/86	1	Arizona State
68 Giacomini, Breno	T	6-7	318	9/27/85	4	Louisville
64 Gibson, Mike	T	6-3	298	11/18/85	4	California
49 Gresham, Clint	LS	6-3	240	8/24/86	2	TCU
61 Jeanpierre, Lemuel	C	6-3	301	5/19/87	1	South Carolina
75 Locklear, Sean	G	6-4	310	5/29/81	8	N.C. State
McQuistan, Paul	T	6-6	315	4/30/83	4	Weber State
Moffitt, John	G	6-4	319	10/28/86	0	Wisconsin
76 Okung, Russell	T	6-5	310	10/7/87	2	Oklahoma State
69 Pitts, Chester	G	6-4	308	6/26/79	10	San Diego State
78 Polumbus, Tyler	T	6-8	300	4/10/85	4	Colorado
73 Robinson, Will	T	6-5	300	12/20/84	3	San Diego State
65 Spencer, Chris	C	6-3	309	3/28/82	7	Ole Miss
60 Unger, Max	T	6-5	305	4/14/86	3	Oregon
63 White, Chris	G	6-2	295	2/28/83	7	Southern Miss
74 Willis, Ray	T	6-6	304	8/13/82	7	Florida State

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
20 Forsett, Justin	RB	5-8	198	10/14/85	4	California
Henry, Chris	RB	5-11	234	6/6/85	4	Arizona
24 Lynch, Marshawn	RB	5-11	215	4/22/86	5	California
26 Robinson, Michael	RB	6-1	223	2/6/83	6	Penn State
33 Washington, Leon	RB	5-8	203	8/29/82	6	Florida State

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
11 Butler, Deon	WR	5-10	182	1/4/86	3	Penn State
Byrd, Dominique	TE	6-3	255	2/1/84	3	USC
89 Carlson, John	TE	6-5	251	5/12/84	4	Notre Dame
Carter, Chris	WR	5-11	191	5/2/85	0	UC Davis
Durham, Kris	WR	6-5	216	3/17/88	0	Georgia
Edison, Dominique	WR	6-2	201	7/16/86	2	Stephen F. Austin
Konz, Jameson	TE	6-3	227	7/2/86	2	Kent State
82 Martin, Ruvell	WR	6-4	220	8/10/82	6	Saginaw Valley State
85 McCoy, Anthony	TE	6-4	259	12/28/87	2	USC
88 Morrah, Cameron	TE	6-3	251	3/18/87	3	California
87 Obomanu, Ben	WR	6-1	204	10/30/83	6	Auburn
Piurowski, Caz	TE	6-7	271	10/11/87	0	Florida State
14 Stanback, Isaiah	WR	6-2	208	8/16/84	5	Washington
15 Stokley, Brandon	WR	6-0	192	6/23/76	13	Louisiana-Lafayette
81 Tate, Golden	WR	5-10	202	8/2/88	2	Notre Dame
17 Williams, Mike	WR	6-5	235	1/4/84	5	USC
Williams, Patrick	WR	6-1	204	1/13/86	1	Colorado

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Alford, Jay	DT	6-3	304	5/28/83	4	Penn State
95 Balmer, Kentwan	DE	6-5	315	10/15/86	4	North Carolina
98 Brock, Raheem	DE	6-4	274	6/10/78	10	Temple
79 Bryant, Red	DE	6-4	323	4/18/84	4	Texas A&M
91 Clemons, Chris	DE	6-3	254	10/30/81	8	Georgia
90 Cole, Colin	DT	6-2	328	6/24/80	9	Iowa
97 Gordon, Amon	DE	6-2	305	10/13/81	5	Stanford
Levingston, Lazarius	DE	6-3	292	11/16/87	0	LSU
92 Mebane, Brandon	DT	6-1	311	1/15/85	5	California
Moen, Barrett	DT	6-4	282	8/11/87	0	Minnesota
99 Richardson, Jay	DE	6-6	280	1/27/84	5	Ohio State
Schable, A.J.	DE	6-3	281	5/18/84	1	South Dakota
94 Siavii, Junior	DT	6-5	315	11/14/78	6	Oregon
93 Terrill, Craig	DT	6-2	296	6/27/80	8	Purdue

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Browner, Brandon	CB	6-4	221	8/2/84	1	Oregon State
24 Pinkard, Josh	CB	6-1	218	4/2/86	1	USC
27 Babineaux, Jordan	S	6-0	210	8/31/82	8	Southern Arkansas
Brindley, James	S	5-11	191	2/1/88	0	Utah State
4 Brown, Marcus	CB	6-0	190	1/27/87	1	Arkansas State
31 Chancellor, Kam	S	6-3	232	4/3/88	2	Virginia Tech
39 Cox, Kennard	CB	6-0	191	8/17/85	2	Pittsburgh
21 Jennings, Kelly	CB	5-11	180	11/30/82	6	Miami (Fla.)
LeGree, Mark	S	6-0	211	7/8/89	0	Appalachian State
34 Lewis, Roy	CB	5-10	190	5/19/85	4	Washington
Maxwell, Byron	CB	6-1	207	2/23/88	0	Clemson
36 Milloy, Lawyer	S	6-0	211	11/14/73	16	Washington
Sherman, Richard	CB	6-2	192	3/30/88	0	Stanford
29 Thomas, Earl	S	5-10	202	5/7/89	2	Texas
28 Thurmond, Walter	CB	5-11	190	8/12/87	2	Oregon
23 Trufant, Marcus	CB	5-11	197	12/25/80	9	Washington State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
59 Curry, Aaron	LB	6-2	255	4/6/86	3	Wake Forest
58 Davis, Dexter	LB	6-1	244	11/10/86	2	Arizona State
57 Hawthorne, David	LB	6-0	246	5/14/85	4	TCU
54 Herring, Will	LB	6-3	241	8/28/83	5	Auburn
53 Heygood, Anthony	LB	6-1	232	4/3/86	2	Purdue
56 Hill, Leroy	LB	6-1	238	9/14/82	7	Clemson
52 McCoy, Matt	LB	6-0	232	10/14/82	7	San Diego State
55 Pawelek, Joe	LB	6-2	237	12/8/86	1	Baylor
Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-1	225	7/5/89	0	USC
51 Tatupu, Lofa	LB	6-0	250	11/15/82	7	USC
Wright, K.J.	LB	6-3	246	7/23/89	0	Mississippi State

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
10 Mare, Olindo	K	5-11	192	6/6/73	16	Syracuse
9 Ryan, Jon	P	6-0	217	11/26/81	6	Regina (Canada)

PETE CARROLL, Head coach

Darrell Bevell, offensive coordinator; **Casey Bradley,** defensive coordinator; **Brian Schneider,** special teams; **Tom Cable,** asst. head coach/offensive line; **Carl Smith,** quarterbacks; **Kippy Brown,** wide receivers; **Pat McPherson,** tight ends; **Pat Ruel,** asst. offensive line; **Sherman Smith,** running backs; **Ken Norton Jr.,** linebackers; **Kris Richard,** secondary; **Todd Walsh,** defensive line; **Rocky Seto,** asst. secondary; **Jeff Ulbrich,** asst. special teams

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

TE Chris Baker (FA), **QB Nate Davis** (FA)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

PETE CARROLL

"Aggressive" doesn't capture the headstrong nature of Carroll's gambling. Seattle went for it on fourth down 16 times last season—an average of once per game—but ranked 20th in fourth-down conversions. Carroll hates settling for field goals and loves to roll the dice on offense, especially at the end of the first half.

The Seahawks gave up 249.6 passing yards per game last season, 27th in the league, and that was an improvement from 2009, when they ranked 30th. In 2008, they were dead last.

So why are they so ineffective? Cornerback Marcus Trufant remains a physical tackler, but he's average at best in coverage. Kelly Jennings has never distinguished himself as a starter and, while second-year man Walter Thurmond has the size Seattle likes, he was still recovering from a serious knee injury during his rookie season. He will compete with rookies Richard Sherman and Byron Maxwell, who were drafted for their ability to play press coverage.

Kam Chancellor is a big-bodied thumper of a strong safety who figures to replace Lawyer Milloy at that position. Thomas turns 22 this year and, for a player still learning the pro game, has great instincts and a knack for catching the ball. He already has elite range for a safety, which is good because he has a lot of holes to plug given Seattle's secondary. **GRADE: D**

SPECIAL TEAMS

This was the biggest strength of Seattle's team last year.

Washington returned three kickoffs for touchdowns, including two in the second half of a Week 3 victory over San Diego. Punter Jon Ryan had 27 kicks downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line, while kicker Olindo Mare made a franchise-record 30 consecutive field goals, a streak that ended in Seattle's seventh game last year.

Seattle is only going to get better in this area as the team's depth improves. Expect Tate to have a bigger role, as he's shown the tantalizing ability to be an elite punt returner. **GRADE: B+**

BOTTOM LINE

Carroll showed in his first season that he can make the most of his raw materials, whether it's a reclamation project like Williams at wide receiver or a patchwork offensive line.

The Seahawks won't repeat their numerous roster moves of a year ago, but this roster is hardly settled, either. The Seahawks were barely good enough to win the worst division in the NFL and likely won't see a return to the playoffs, especially given the uncertainty at quarterback.

Carroll and general manager John Schneider are rebuilding this franchise through the draft, and that takes time. A winning record will be asking a lot this season, maybe too much in a division that will be much improved, if only because it's hard to imagine the NFC West getting any worse.

72
FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT
STEADY

4

NFC WEST

SN PICK 4-12

PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	John Skelton/veteran FA Rich Bartel
FB	Anthony Sherman Reagan Maui'a
RB	Beanie Wells Tim Hightower
LT	Levi Brown Jeremy Bridges
LG	Rex Hadnot Jeremy Bridges
C	Lyle Sendlein Ben Claxton
RG	Deuce Lutui Jeremy Bridges
RT	Brandon Keith Jeremy Bridges
TE	Jim Dray Rob Housler
WR	Larry Fitzgerald Stephen Williams
WR	Steve Breaston Andre Roberts
DEFENSE	
DE	Darnell Dockett Kenny Iwebema
NT	Dan Williams Alan Branch
DE	Calais Campbell Alan Branch
OLB	Clark Haggans Will Davis
ILB	Daryl Washington Paris Lenon
ILB	Paris Lenon Reggie Walker
OLB	O'Brien Schofield Will Davis
LCB	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie Trumaine McBride
SS	Adrian Wilson Matt Ware
FS	Kerry Rhodes Rashad Johnson
RCB	Patrick Peterson Greg Toler
SPECIALISTS	
K	Jay Feely
P	Ben Graham
KR	LaRod Stephens-Howling
PR	Andre Roberts
LS	Mike Leach

As concerns abound, playoffs don't look to be in the Cards this season

By Kent Somers *Arizona Republic*

Kurt Warner had no problem settling into retirement in 2010. The Cardinals, on the other hand, had all kinds of difficulties dealing with it and are still trying to cope heading into the 2011 campaign.

Finding a quarterback is the top priority this offseason, but given the NFL's labor problems, there is not a worse time to look for one. The Cardinals would have preferred to sign (or trade) for a veteran early in the year so he could spend a few months learning the offensive system and getting to know his teammates.

Quarterback is hardly the Cardinals' only concern, however. The offensive line is unstable, there is little depth at receiver, the pass rush is lacking and several defensive players are coming off bad seasons.

After a 5-11 season, there's a lot to fix and little time to do it.

OFFENSE

Ken Whisenhunt is an offensive coach and a flexible one. He used a power running game as Pittsburgh's coordinator but adapted when he came to the Cardinals in 2007, playing to Warner's strengths and those of a talented receiving corps. Arizona is in transition now however, given the unsettled quarterback position.

Mike Miller was promoted to offensive coordinator in the offseason and likely will call the majority of the plays. But make no mistake—it's Whisenhunt's philosophy that he will be carrying out.

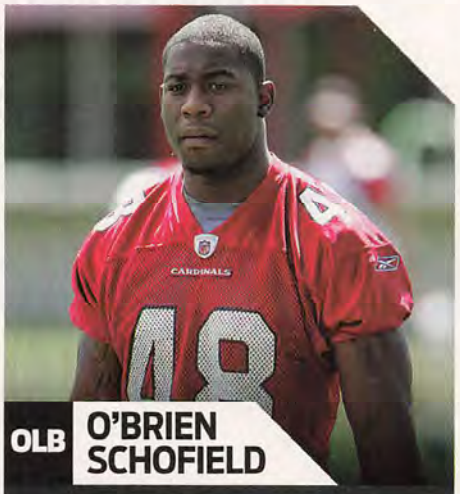
Quarterbacks ▸ Whisenhunt miscalculated last year when he cut Matt Leinart and went with Derek Anderson, whose inaccuracy proved costly. The offensive problems weren't all Anderson's fault, but he's a career 52.6-percent passer.

John Skelton and Max Hall each started games as rookies, with Skelton being the better performer of the two. Arizona's coaches think Skelton has a bright future, but they would prefer to wait a couple of years to see it. Skelton is smart and knows he must make better decisions and work on his accuracy.

Rich Bartel, added late in the season, is the leading contender for the No. 3 job, while Hall's best shot might be as a member of the practice squad. What the Cardinals lack, obviously, is a No. 1 quarterback, and they are expected to pursue one via trade or free agency. **GRADE: F**

Running backs ▸ With 22-year-old Beanie Wells and Tim Hightower (25), the Cardinals appeared to be set at running back. Then they drafted Ryan Williams in the second round. Throw LaRod Stephens-Howling in the mix as a third-down back, and the running back position is overbooked. The Hightower-Wells tandem has not lived up to its potential. That's mostly because Wells, a first-round pick in 2009,

BREAKOUT CANDIDATE



OLB O'BRIEN SCHOFIELD

A fourth-round pick in 2010, Schofield was limited in his rookie year by a knee injury suffered in the Senior Bowl. He played toward the end of the 2010 season and made an impact on special teams, and Arizona's coaches think he's going to develop into a good player.

2010 RECORD

OVERALL: 5-11 HOME: 4-4

▸ **ONLINE:** www.azcardinals.com

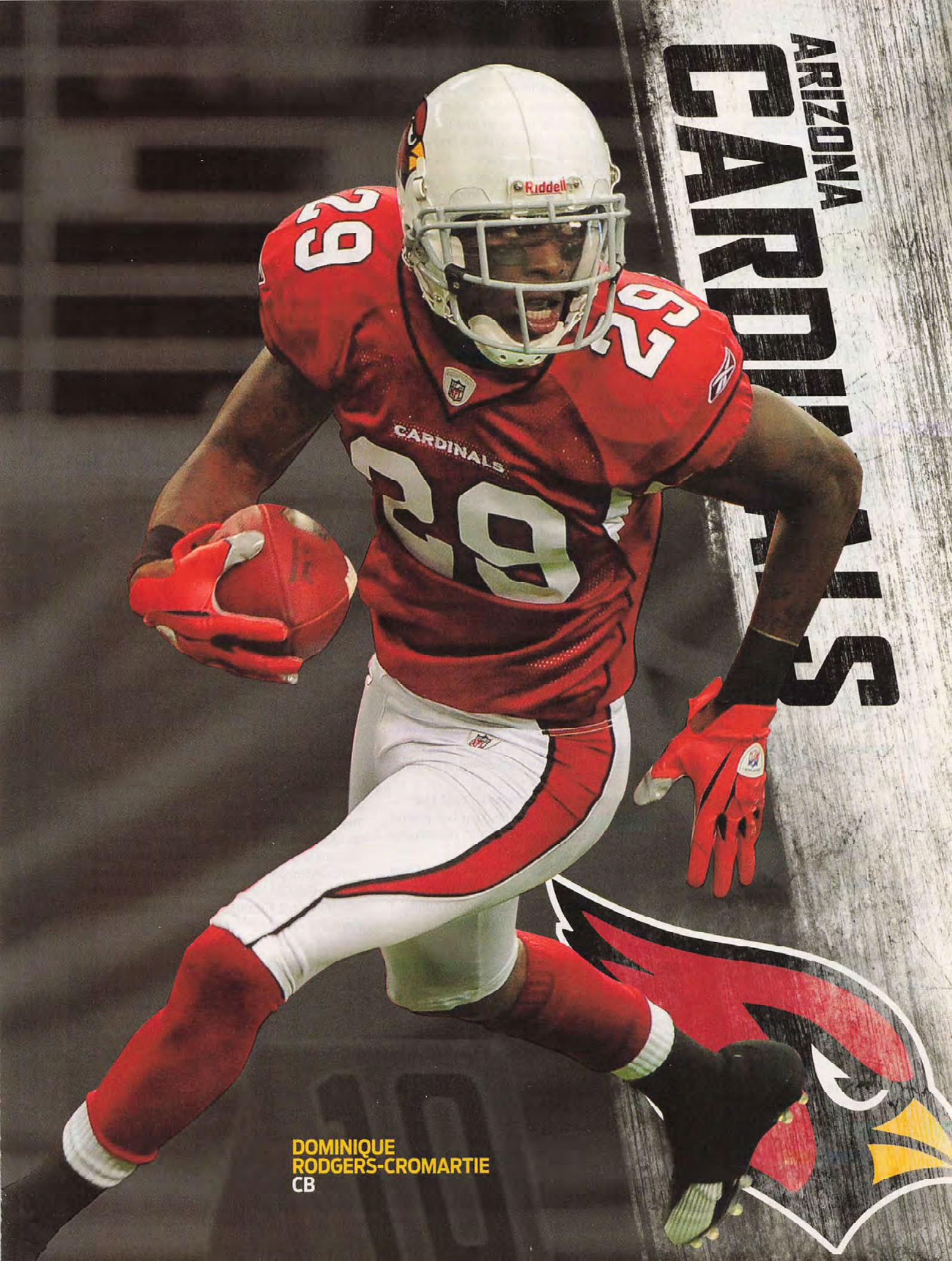
▸ **STADIUM:** University of Phoenix Stadium
Capacity: 63,400 **Turf:** Grass
Tickets: 602-379-0102

▸ **TRAINING CAMP:** Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.; 602-379-0101

CARDINALS' ALL-TIME INTERCEPTION LEADERS

1	Larry Wilson (1960-72)	52	2	Aeneas Williams (1991-2000)	46	3	Roger Wehrli (1969-85)	40

GENE LOWER / GETTY IMAGES; OPPOSITE: MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE


ARIZONA
CARDINALS
Riddell
CARDINALS
DOMINIQUE
RODGERS-CROMARTIE
CB

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1	CAROLINA	SEPT. 11	4:15	W / L
WEEK 2	@ WASHINGTON	SEPT. 18	1:00	W / L
WEEK 3	@ SEATTLE	SEPT. 25	4:15	W / L
WEEK 4	N.Y. GIANTS	OCT. 2	4:05	W / L
WEEK 5	@ MINNESOTA	OCT. 9	1:00	W / L
WEEK 6	OPEN			
WEEK 7	PITTSBURGH	OCT. 23	4:05	W / L
WEEK 8	@ BALTIMORE	OCT. 30	1:00	W / L
WEEK 9	ST. LOUIS	NOV. 6	4:15	W / L
WEEK 10	@ PHILADELPHIA	NOV. 13	1:00	W / L
WEEK 11	@ SAN FRANCISCO	NOV. 20	4:05	W / L
WEEK 12	@ ST. LOUIS	NOV. 27	1:00	W / L
WEEK 13	DALLAS	DEC. 4	4:15	W / L
WEEK 14	SAN FRANCISCO	DEC. 11	4:05	W / L
WEEK 15	CLEVELAND	DEC. 18	4:15	W / L
WEEK 16	@ CINCINNATI	DEC. 24	1:00	W / L
WEEK 17	SEATTLE	JAN. 1	4:15	W / L

Sunday night games in Weeks 11-17 subject to change.

hasn't produced at the level coaches had hoped.

After an encouraging rookie season, Wells suffered a knee injury last year just as he was promoted over Hightower to the starting job. Wells didn't have the same explosiveness afterward and failed to break as many tackles as the year before. In contrast, Hightower has gotten the most out of his talent. A fifth-round pick in 2008, he's shown breakaway ability and is a physical runner. But in 2010 he fumbled too much and struggled in pass blocking, an area that was formerly a strength.

Williams could make either Wells or Hightower (a restricted free agent) expendable. The Cardinals don't use the fullback a lot, rather just enough to keep one on the roster. That's likely to be Anthony Sherman, the 2011 fifth-round pick out of Connecticut. **GRADE: B**

Receivers ▸ Larry Fitzgerald is entering the last year of his contract, and his future is tied to how the front office addresses the quarterback situation. Being a part of a productive offense on a winning team is a major goal of his. If he doesn't see a bright future at quarterback, Fitzgerald will likely take his talents elsewhere.

And there isn't much behind him. Steve Breaston could become an unrestricted free agent, depending on a new collective bargaining agreement. Early Doucet has suffered injuries in each of his three seasons, and the rest of the group, including Stephen Williams and Max Komar, are unproven.

Fitzgerald, meanwhile, is as good as he ever was. His numbers were down last year because of poor quarterback play, although Fitzgerald did drop more passes than usual. Williams is a wild card in the group. He has the size (6-5, 214 pounds), speed and hands to make an impact but did little in 2010 after impressing in training camp.

Jim Dray, a rookie last season, could be the team's No. 1 tight end this year but will be challenged by Rob Housler, a 2011 third-round selection who is fast. **GRADE: C**

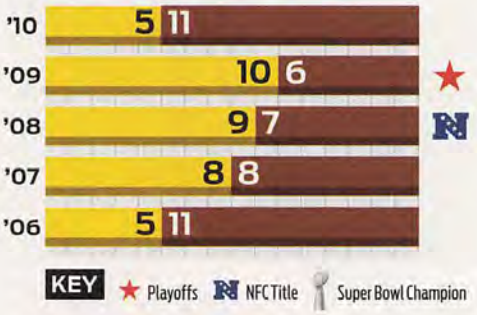
Offensive line ▸ This group took a lot of heat last season, but coaches were not as displeased as the fans. The line would have looked much better with competent quarterback play. However, it's hard to say what the group will look like in 2011.

The outside will appear the same, with Levi Brown and Brandon Keith returning at tackles. But two inside players—center Lyle Sendlein and guard Deuce Lutui—are not under contract and could become free agents depending on the new collective bargaining agreement. Also, guard Alan Faneca retired in the offseason.

Two solid veterans, Jeremy Bridges and Rex Hadnot, served as backups last season. But if they become starters, the team has little depth.

Brown, the fifth overall pick in 2007, has

5-YEAR RECORD: 37-43



VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDELINE

(an opponent breaks down the Cardinals)

"What happened to them last year is clearly a stark example of how this is such a quarterback-driven league. Their record was worse, even when the division was worse. If you don't have a quarterback, you don't have a chance, and that's where they are right now. The only reason they've got a little bit of a chance is they're in such a bad division. ...

"Defensively, ever since (coach Ken) Whisenhunt got there, they have not been real good against the score. It was covered up a lot when (Kurt) Warner was the guy. They could roll the points up and they could possess the ball, chew grass up, but they never had a defense. You can say whatever you want but the Steelers' 3-4 (defense) is about two things: It's the people and it's (coordinator) Dick LeBeau. They (the Cardinals) don't have the people. They are going to try it again with (defensive coordinator Ray Horton)."

FANTASY SPIN

Larry Fitzgerald's touchdowns decreased by seven without Kurt Warner, but he finished with 45 more yards. Improved QB play would make "Fitz" a sure No. 1 fantasy wideout again.

BUY

Defense/special teams

SELL

Beanie Wells

SLEEPER

Patrick Peterson

aol.sportingnews.com/fantasy/football

MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE

THE BOOK ON ...

LARRY FITZGERALD

"Larry Fitzgerald has got the best body control of any receiver in the league. His body and spatial awareness when he is tracking the ball is second to none. He is so long and so strong, has such spatial awareness and 'snatch' hands. When we played them, we had most coverages rolled to him, giving the corner a chance to work him, but he had help over the top all the time. ...

"Fitzgerald is Gumby-like when he is in the air; it's nearly impossible for a (cornerback) to outfight him for the ball. You have to give him help. They will put him on the inside of the formation, put him off the line and send him in motion to keep people from jamming him up. You have to be able to have a safety over the top, or inside or out. ...

"You can't just leave a corner on him by himself, and you are better off having a more physical corner on him, even if he's less mobile."

NUMBERS

CATEGORY	TEAM STATS	NFL RANK
Total Offense	269.3	31
Rushing	86.8	32
Passing	182.6	31
Scoring	289	26
Punt Returns	7.0	26t
Kick Returns	24.8	5
Red Zone TD %	43.2	28
Total Defense	373.6	29
Against Rush	145.2	30
Against Pass	228.4	23
Points Allowed	434	30
Interceptions	17	11t
Sacks	33	18t
Turnover Diff.	-5	22

started since his rookie year but hasn't been a dominant player. The Cardinals need him to become a more reliable pass blocker. **GRADE: C-**

DEFENSE

Ray Horton is the new defensive coordinator, the third person to hold that job since Whisenhunt took over in 2007. Whisenhunt would like to run a 3-4 scheme modeled after the Steelers, and Horton has spent much of his NFL career playing and working for Steelers defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau. He faces a great challenge with the Cardinals, because the team lacks a pass rush and many of its better defensive players are coming off disappointing seasons.

Defensive line ▸ With nose tackle Dan Williams and ends Darnell Dockett and Calais Campbell, the Cardinals have a starting unit that should be the strength of the defense. It also should have played better in 2010. Williams, a first-round pick last year, was inconsistent through the first half of the season and was held out of one game because he was overweight. However, he played well over the second half of the season and it appears the club might finally have the nose tackle it's been seeking since Whisenhunt's arrival.

Dockett's explosiveness is unmatched, so while not ideally sized for a 3-4 end, he can make an impact. He suffered last season because injuries robbed the team of depth, and is a better player when he can take a series or two off every half.

Campbell's inconsistency last season

was a mystery. He has the tools to be exceptional, but tends to be handled on run plays because he plays too high.

Depth is a concern. Kenny Iwebema is coming off reconstructive surgery and is unsigned, Alan Branch could be an unrestricted free agent and Bryan Robinson is contemplating retirement. **GRADE: B**

Linebackers ▸ Outside linebacker is a key position in the 3-4, and the Cardinals haven't been able to develop or make the key free-agent acquisition at this spot.

Last year's starters, Joey Porter and Clark Haggans, will be 34 next season. Porter didn't provide much of a pass rush and is unlikely to return. Haggans could be back and prove to be a valuable mentor to young players such as O'Brien Schofield. A fourth-round pick in 2010, Schofield didn't contribute much as a rookie because he was coming off ACL surgery. He could provide a huge boost if he's healthy and possesses the pass rush skills he displayed at Wisconsin.

Daryl Washington, a second-round pick last year, was inconsistent early in the season as he struggled to shed blocks and make tackles. But he improved as the year progressed, and is athletic and instinctive.

Inside linebacker Paris Lenon made great contributions last year, his first with the team. He's versatile and played both inside spots. What the Cardinals lack inside, however, is a big, physical linebacker who can pack a wallop. Help could come there via free agency. **GRADE: D**

Secondary ▸ The Cardinals'

DRAFT REPORT

The Cardinals made strong picks in the first four rounds with cornerback **Patrick Peterson**, running back **Ryan Williams**, tight end **Robert Housler** and linebacker **Sam Acho**. Peterson should start right away, while Williams has proven to be a tough and physical blocker in pass protection. Housler and Acho could also see time at their respective positions. The Cardinals chose Acho in order to pair him with end O'Brien Schofield, who was taken in last year's draft.

Fifth-rounder **Anthony Sherman** should find a role as a hammer-type fullback, while playing some on special teams. Linebacker **Quan Sturdivant** and defensive tackle **David Carter** will compete for rotations on defense immediately and see time on special teams.

Peterson

GRADE

2011 DRAFTEES

RD.	PICK	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	COLLEGE
1	5	Patrick Peterson	CB	6-0	219	LSU
2	6	Ryan Williams	RB	5-9	212	Virginia Tech
3	5	Rob Housler	TE	6-5	248	Florida Atlantic
4	6	Sam Acho	OLB	6-2	262	Texas
5	5	Anthony Sherman	FB	5-10	242	Connecticut
6	6	Quan Sturdivant	ILB	6-1	241	North Carolina
6	19	David Carter	DT	6-5	297	UCLA
7	46	DeMarco Sampson	WR	6-2	204	San Diego State

2010 FINAL STATS

DATE	W/L	SCORE	OPPONENT
09/12	W	17-13	St. Louis Rams
09/19	L	7-41	Atlanta Falcons
09/26	W	24-23	Oakland Raiders
10/03	L	10-41	San Diego Chargers
10/10	W	20-30	New Orleans Saints
10/24	L	10-22	Seattle Seahawks
10/31	L	35-38	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
11/07	L	24-27	Minnesota Vikings
11/14	L	18-36	Seattle Seahawks
11/21	L	13-31	Kansas City Chiefs
11/29	L	6-27	San Francisco 49ers
12/05	L	6-19	St. Louis Rams
12/12	W	43-13	Denver Broncos
12/19	L	12-19	Carolina Panthers
12/25	W	27-26	Dallas Cowboys
01/02	L	7-38	San Francisco 49ers

WON 5, LOST 11

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Hightower	153	736	4.8	80	5
Wells	116	397	3.4	24	2
Stephens-Howling	23	113	4.9	30	1
Skelton	10	49	4.9	16	0
Breaston	3	35	11.7	17	0
Wright	6	28	4.7	10	0
Anderson	5	25	5.0	11	0
Doucet	2	5	2.5	3	0
Feely	1	5	5.0	5	1
Hall	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0
ARIZONA	**320**	**1388**	**4.3**	**80**	**9**
OPPONENTS	**526**	**2323**	**4.4**	**48**	**19**

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Fitzgerald	90	1137	12.6	41	6
Breaston	47	718	15.3	37	1
Doucet	26	291	11.2	36	1
Roberts	24	307	12.8	74	2
Hightower	21	136	6.5	20	0
Stephens-Howling	16	111	6.9	13	0
Patrick	15	123	8.2	21	0
Komar	12	117	9.8	20	0
Williams	9	101	11.2	17	0
Wright	8	42	5.3	9	0
Spach	7	40	5.7	14	0
Wells	5	74	14.8	43	0
Dray	3	47	15.7	24	0
Maui'a	2	20	10.0	10	0
ARIZONA	**285**	**3264**	**11.5**	**74**	**10**
OPPONENTS	**324**	**3654**	**11.3**	**70**	**22**

PASSING	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT
Anderson	327	169	2065	7	10
Skelton	126	60	662	2	2
Hall	78	39	370	1	6
Bartel	28	16	150	0	1
Breaston	2	2	17	0	0
ARIZONA	**561**	**285**	**3264**	**10**	**19**
OPPONENTS	**533**	**324**	**3881**	**22**	**17**

SACKS ARIZONA 33, OPPONENTS 50

Campbell 6, Dockett 5, Haggans 5, Porter 5, Branch 2, Lenon 2, Schofield 2, Wilson 2, Davis 1, Rhodes 1, Toler 1, Washington 1

BRIAN SPURLOCK / US PRESSWIRE

ROSTER *as of May 11*

QUARTERBACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
3 Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	235	6/15/83	7	Oregon State
2 Bartel, Richard	QB	6-3	230	2/03/83	2	Tarleton State
6 Hall, Max	QB	6-1	205	10/01/85	2	BYU
19 Skelton, John	QB	6-5	244	3/17/88	2	Fordham

OFFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
74 Batiste, D'Anthony	G	6-4	314	3/29/82	6	Louisiana-Lafayette
73 Bridges, Jeremy	G	6-5	318	4/19/80	9	Southern Miss
75 Brown, Levi	T	6-6	324	3/16/84	5	Penn State
62 Claxton, Ben	C	6-3	300	7/30/80	5	Ole Miss
70 Hadnot, Rex	C	6-2	310	1/28/82	8	Houston
72 Keith, Brandon	T	6-5	335	11/21/84	4	Northern Iowa
82 Leach, Mike	LS	6-2	235	10/18/76	12	William & Mary
Louis, Cliff	T	6-8	315	8/24/84	1	Morgan State
76 Lutui, Deuce	G	6-4	338	5/05/83	6	USC
68 Pestock, Tom	G	6-6	317	9/13/84	1	NW Missouri State
63 Sendlein, Lyle	C	6-3	308	3/16/84	5	Texas

RUNNING BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Ali, Charles	RB	6-2	255	8/23/84	3	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
32 Broughton, Nehemiah	RB	5-11	255	11/04/82	5	The Citadel
34 Hightower, Tim	RB	6-0	222	5/23/86	4	Richmond
45 Maui'a, Reagan	RB	6-0	260	7/06/84	4	Hawaii
Sherman, Anthony	RB	5-10	242	12/11/88	0	Connecticut
Smith, Alfonso	RB	6-1	208	1/23/87	1	Kentucky
36 Stephens-Howling, LaRod	RB	5-7	185	4/26/87	3	Pittsburgh
26 Wells, Beanie	RB	6-2	229	8/07/88	3	Ohio State
Williams, Ryan	RB	5-9	212	4/09/90	0	Virginia Tech
31 Wright, Jason	RB	5-10	212	7/12/82	8	Northwestern

RECEIVERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
15 Breaston, Steve	WR	6-0	189	8/20/83	5	Michigan
80 Doucet, Early	WR	6-0	212	10/28/85	4	LSU
81 Dray, Jim	TE	6-5	255	12/31/86	2	Stanford
11 Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	8/31/83	8	Pittsburgh
Housler, Rob	TE	6-5	248	3/17/88	0	Florida Atlantic
18 Komar, Max	WR	5-11	202	11/30/87	2	Idaho
89 Patrick, Ben	TE	6-3	264	8/23/84	5	Delaware
12 Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	195	1/09/88	2	The Citadel
Sampson, DeMarco	WR	6-2	204	12/19/85	0	San Diego State
83 Spach, Stephen	TE	6-4	260	7/18/82	6	Fresno State
Williams, Isaiah	WR	6-3	200	1/30/87	1	Maryland
14 Williams, Stephen	WR	6-5	208	6/29/86	2	Toledo

DEFENSIVE LINE		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
78 Branch, Alan	DT	6-6	338	12/29/84	5	Michigan
93 Campbell, Calais	DT	6-8	300	9/01/86	4	Miami (Fla.)
Carter, David	DT	6-5	297	12/10/87	0	UCLA
90 Dockett, Darnell	DT	6-4	290	5/27/81	8	Florida State
Dykes, Keilen	DT	6-3	305	9/06/84	2	West Virginia
91 Iwebema, Kenny	DE	6-4	280	2/06/85	4	Iowa
Navarre, Jeremy	DE	6-3	279	3/16/87	2	Maryland
97 Robinson, Bryan	DE	6-4	305	6/22/74	15	Fresno State
50 Schofield, O'Brien	DE	6-2	231	4/03/87	2	Wisconsin
Sharpe, Brandon	DE	6-3	254	12/22/86	1	Texas Tech
Talley, Ronald	DE	6-3	286	2/21/86	1	Delaware
98 Watson, Gabe	DT	6-4	338	9/24/83	6	Michigan
92 Williams, Dan	DT	6-2	327	6/01/87	2	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE BACKS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
21 Abdullah, Hamza	S	6-2	216	8/20/83	7	Washington State
27 Adams, Michael	CB	5-8	181	6/17/85	5	Louisiana-Lafayette
30 Green, Marshay	CB	5-10	175	1/14/86	2	Ole Miss
20 Jefferson, A.J.	CB	6-1	190	4/04/88	2	Fresno State
49 Johnson, Rashad	S	5-11	204	1/02/86	3	Alabama
23 McBride, Trumaine	CB	5-9	185	9/24/85	5	Ole Miss
Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-0	219	7/11/90	0	LSU
25 Rhodes, Kerry	S	6-3	212	8/02/82	7	Louisville
29 Rodgers-Cromartie, Dominique	CB	6-2	182	4/07/86	4	Tennessee State
28 Toler, Greg	CB	6-0	192	1/02/85	3	St. Paul's College
22 Ware, Matt	S	6-3	218	12/02/82	8	UCLA
24 Wilson, Adrian	S	6-3	230	10/12/79	11	N.C. State

LINEBACKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
Acho, Sam	LB	6-2	262	9/06/88	0	Texas
59 Davis, Will	LB	6-2	257	6/02/86	3	Illinois
57 Gatewood, Curtis	LB	6-3	250	5/18/85	2	Vanderbilt
53 Haggans, Clark	LB	6-4	243	1/10/77	12	Colorado State
54 Hayes, Gerald	LB	6-1	250	10/10/80	9	Pittsburgh
51 Lenon, Paris	LB	6-2	240	11/26/77	10	Richmond
52 Obiozor, Cyril	LB	6-4	249	9/26/86	2	Texas A&M
55 Porter, Joey	LB	6-3	248	3/22/77	13	Colorado State
Sturdivant, Quan	LB	6-1	241	12/05/88	0	North Carolina
51 Togafau, Pago	LB	5-11	242	1/10/84	3	Idaho State
56 Walker, Reggie	LB	6-0	244	12/15/86	3	Kansas State
58 Washington, Daryl	LB	6-2	230	10/09/86	2	TCU

KICKERS		HT	WT	BORN	EXP	COLLEGE
4 Feely, Jay	K	5-10	208	5/26/76	11	Michigan
5 Graham, Ben	P	6-5	236	11/02/73	7	Deakin (Australia)

KEN WHISENHUNT, Head coach

Mike Miller, offensive coordinator; **Ray Horton,** defensive coordinator; **Kevin Spencer,** special teams; **Russ Grimm,** asst. head coach/offensive line; **Ron Aiken,** defensive line; **Freddie Kitchens,** tight ends; **Chris Miller,** quarterbacks; **John McNulty,** receivers; **Tommie Robinson,** running backs; **Matt Raich,** linebackers; **Louie Cioffi,** defensive backs; **Deshea Townsend,** asst. defensive backs

OFFSEASON MOVES

as of May 11

ADDITIONS

None

SUBTRACTIONS

G Alan Faneca (retired)

INSIDE THE HEADSET

KEN WHISENHUNT

If he's confident in his personnel, Whisenhunt is as bold as they come. Last year, the Cardinals were weak on both sides of the ball, so it was hard to justify taking many chances. If defensive coordinator Ray Horton improves that unit, Whisenhunt might feel more comfortable running the gadget plays for which he's known.

secondary disappointed in 2010, contributing to Whisenhunt's decision to make three changes on his defensive staff. Cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie has great cover skills but shies away from tackling. Last year, however, Rodgers-Cromartie didn't cover as well as usual, and he admittedly needs to improve.

Patrick Peterson, the 2011 first-round pick, will start on the other side. Like Rodgers-Cromartie, he should be effective in press coverage, giving Horton flexibility in his game plans and play calls. Greg Toler was taken advantage of in his first year as a starter and will now give way to Peterson.

Michael Adams and Trumaine McBride are unsigned, although coaches would prefer to have them back. Strong safety Adrian Wilson was yet another veteran who did not play well in 2010. Free safety Kerry Rhodes played well in his first year with the team, while Rashad Johnson provides depth. **GRADE: B**

SPECIAL TEAMS

Jay Feely was one of the most reliable kickers in the NFL last season, and in LaRod Stephens-Howling, the team has one of the better kick returners. Feely made 24 of 27 field goal attempts, including two of three from 50 yards and beyond. Stephens-Howling returned two kicks for touchdowns last year, but Andre Roberts averaged only 7.5 yards per punt return.

Punter Ben Graham's net average was just 36.6 yards. While he has uncanny ability to place the ball inside an opponent's 10-yard line, Graham rarely flips field position with booming punts. Mike Leach remains one of the game's most consistent long snappers. **GRADE: B**

BOTTOM LINE

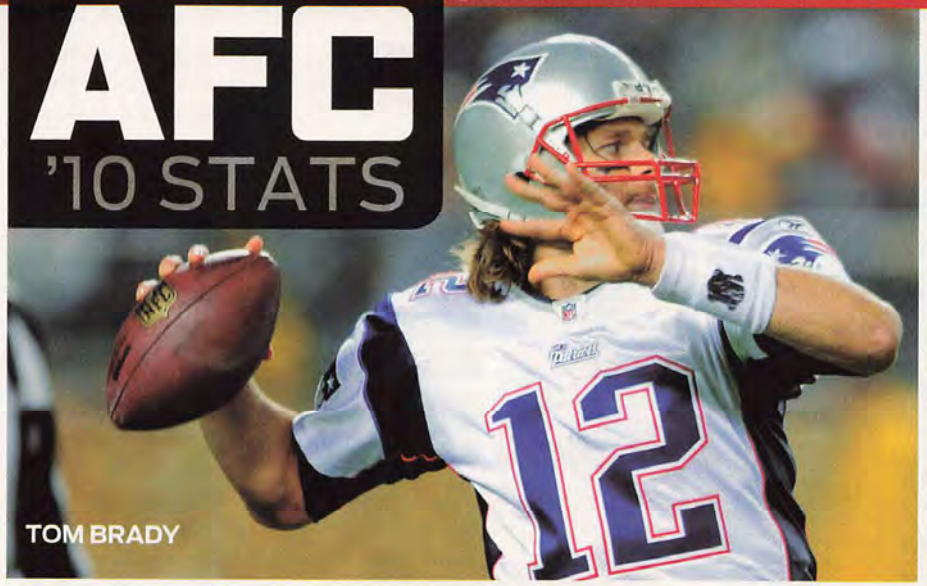
The Cardinals are coming off their worst season since 2006, and it's hard to imagine many other teams with as many weaknesses to address. The most glaring is at quarterback. They need more than competence at that spot; Arizona must have someone who can make plays.

Most of the players comprising the core of the defense are coming off poor seasons. Whisenhunt, however, has proven his ability as a coach, and playing in a weak division gives the Cardinals some hope. The pressure also is on general manager Rod Graves, personnel chief Steve Keim and the ownership of the Bidwill family to build through the draft and identify and sign free agents who can help.

68 FINAL GRADE

STOCK REPORT: DOWN

AFC '10 STATS


TOM BRADY

TEAM SCORING

TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
New England	65	19	37	9	62	64	0	1	22	25	0	518
San Diego	51	18	30	3	48	48	2	3	27	33	1	441
Indianapolis	51	13	33	5	51	51	0	0	26	28	0	435
Oakland	44	19	18	7	43	43	0	1	33	41	2	410
Houston	44	20	24	0	43	43	1	1	27	30	0	390
Pittsburgh	41	15	22	4	38	38	2	2	29	37	0	375
New York Jets	39	14	20	5	37	37	1	1	30	39	2	367
Kansas City	44	13	27	4	42	42	0	2	20	26	0	366
Baltimore	40	11	25	4	39	39	0	0	26	29	0	357
Tennessee	40	13	24	3	38	38	1	2	24	26	2	356
Jacksonville	41	14	26	1	41	41	0	0	22	28	0	353
Denver	40	13	25	2	38	39	0	1	22	25	0	344
Cincinnati	36	8	26	2	30	32	2	4	24	31	0	322
Buffalo	34	6	24	4	31	32	0	2	16	21	0	283
Miami	26	8	17	1	25	25	0	1	30	41	1	273
Cleveland	29	13	13	3	28	28	0	1	23	28	0	271
AFC AVERAGE	41.6	13.6	24.4	3.6	39.6	40.0	0.6	1.4	25.1	30.5	0.6	366.3

PASSING

241+ ATTEMPTS	TEAM	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%	SACKS	LOSS	RATING
Tom Brady	NE	492	324	65.9	3,900	7.9	36	7.3	79t	4	0.8	25	175	111.0
Philip Rivers	SD	541	357	66.0	4,710	8.7	30	5.5	59t	13	2.4	38	227	101.8
Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	389	240	61.7	3,200	8.2	17	4.4	56t	5	1.3	32	220	97.0
Joe Flacco	BAL	489	306	62.6	3,622	7.4	25	5.1	67	10	2.0	40	294	93.6
Matt Cassel	KC	450	262	58.2	3,116	6.9	27	6.0	75t	7	1.6	26	182	93.0
Matt Schaub	HOU	574	365	63.6	4,370	7.6	24	4.2	60	12	2.1	32	226	92.0
Peyton Manning	IND	679	450	66.3	4,700	6.9	33	4.9	73t	17	2.5	16	91	91.9
David Garrard	JAC	366	236	64.5	2,734	7.5	23	6.3	75	15	4.1	33	253	90.8
Kyle Orton	DEN	498	293	58.8	3,653	7.3	20	4.0	71	9	1.8	34	243	87.5
Jason Campbell	OAK	329	194	59.0	2,387	7.3	13	4.0	73t	8	2.4	33	208	84.5
Carson Palmer	CIN	586	362	61.8	3,970	6.8	26	4.4	78t	20	3.4	26	201	82.4
Kerry Collins	TEN	278	160	57.6	1,823	6.6	14	5.0	80t	8	2.9	13	91	82.2
Ryan Fitzpatrick	BUF	441	255	57.8	3,000	6.8	23	5.2	65t	15	3.4	24	145	81.8
Chad Henne	MIA	490	301	61.4	3,301	6.7	15	3.1	57t	19	3.9	30	178	75.4
Mark Sanchez	NYJ	507	278	54.8	3,291	6.5	17	3.4	74t	13	2.6	27	171	75.3

NET PUNTING

43+ PUNTS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Shane Lechler	OAK	77	3,618	68	47.0	4	0	45	400	27	40.8
Sam Koch	BAL	81	3,530	60	43.6	4	0	34	275	39	39.2
Adam Podlesh	JAC	57	2,496	63	43.8	7	0	19	123	26	39.2
Brett Kern	TEN	77	3,302	68	42.9	4	0	35	214	24	39.1
Daniel Sepulveda	PIT	56	2,550	62	45.5	8	0	23	198	16	39.1
Reggie Hodges	CLE	78	3,474	59	43.9	5	0	40	285	29	39.0
Zoltan Mesko	NE	58	2,505	65	43.2	5	0	25	179	19	38.4
Kevin Huber	CIN	71	2,992	72	42.1	6	1	26	124	28	38.2
Steve Weatherford	NYJ	84	3,581	61	42.6	4	0	27	299	42	38.1
Brandon Fields	MIA	73	3,369	69	46.2	4	2	43	454	31	37.8
Dustin Colquitt	KC	88	3,908	72	44.4	10	1	42	361	33	37.6
Matt Turk	HOU	63	2,650	60	42.1	5	0	29	233	19	36.8
Britton Colquitt	DEN	86	3,835	63	44.6	7	0	50	550	19	36.6
Brian Moorman	BUF	75	3,181	61	42.4	7	0	32	299	17	36.6
Pat McAfee	IND	65	2,731	66	42.0	7	0	25	289	21	35.4
Mike Scifres	SD	52	2,430	67	46.7	9	4	28	528	13	30.8

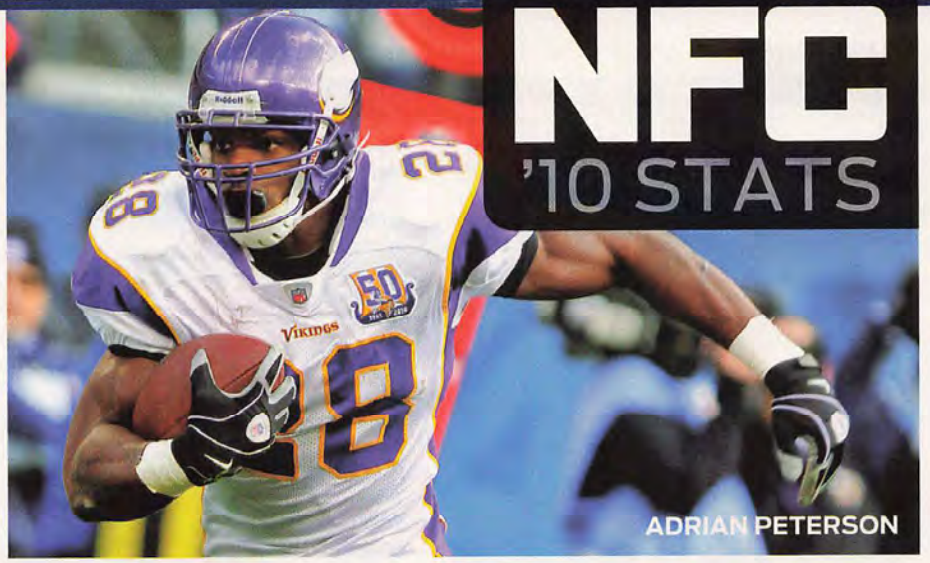
SCORING

KICKERS	TEAM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Sebastian Janikowski	OAK	43	43	33	41	142
Adam Vinatieri	IND	51	51	26	28	129
Nick Folk	NYJ	37	37	30	39	127
Neil Rackers	HOU	43	43	27	30	124
Billy Cundiff	BAL	39	39	26	29	117
Dan Carpenter	MIA	25	25	30	41	115
Rob Bironas	TEN	38	38	24	26	110
Nate Kaeding	SD	40	40	23	28	109
Josh Scobee	JAC	41	41	22	28	107
Ryan Succop	KC	42	42	20	26	102
Phil Dawson	CLE	28	28	23	28	97
Rian Lindell	BUF	31	32	16	21	79
Matt Prater	DEN	28	29	16	18	76
Shayne Graham	NE	35	37	12	12	71
Mike Nugent	CIN	17	17	15	19	62
Shaun Suisham	PIT	19	19	14	15	61
Stephen Gostkowski	NE	26	26	10	13	56

NON-KICKERS	TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	PTS
Arian Foster	HOU	18	16	2	0	0	108
Dwayne Bowe	KC	15	0	15	0	0	90
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	NE	13	13	0	0	0	78
Peyton Hillis	CLE	13	11	2	0	0	78
Rashard Mendenhall	PIT	13	13	0	0	0	78
Chris Johnson	TEN	12	11	1	0	0	72
Mike Tolbert	SD	11	11	0	0	1	68
Brandon Lloyd	DEN	11	0	11	0	0	66
Antonio Gates	SD	10	0	10	0	0	60
Rob Gronkowski	NE	10	0	10	0	0	60
Steve Johnson	BUF	10	0	10	0	0	60
Marcedes Lewis	JAC	10	0	10	0	0	60
Darren McFadden	OAK	10	7	3	0	0	60
Mike Wallace	PIT	10	0	10	0	0	60
Kenny Britt	TEN	9	0	9	0	1	56
Terrell Owens	CIN	9	0	9	0	0	54
Cedric Benson	CIN	8	7	1	0	1	50
Michael Bush	OAK	8	8	0	0	0	48
Jamaal Charles	KC	8	5	3	0	0	48
Austin Collie	IND	8	0	8	0	0	48
Andre Johnson	HOU	8	0	8	0	0	48
Knowshon Moreno	DEN	8	5	3	0	0	48
Braylon Edwards	NYJ	7	0	7	0	1	44
Wes Welker	NE	7	0	7	0	0	43
Anquan Boldin	BAL	7	0	7	0	0	42
Jacoby Ford	OAK	7	2	2	3	0	42
Fred Jackson	BUF	7	5	2	0	0	42
Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	7	5	2	0	0	42
Derrick Mason	BAL	7	0	7	0	0	42
Ryan Mathews	SD	7	7	0	0	0	42
Mike Sims-Walker	JAC	7	0	7	0	0	42
Malcom Floyd	SD	6	0	6	0	0	36
Pierre Garçon	IND	6	0	6	0	0	36
Aaron Hernandez	NE	6	0	6	0	0	36
Santonio Holmes	NYJ	6	0	6	0	0	36
Javarris James	IND	6	6	0	0	0	36
Thomas Jones	KC	6	6	0	0	0	36
Willis McGahee	BAL	6	5	1	0	0	36
Ray Rice	BAL	6	5	1	0	0	36
Tim Tebow	DEN	6	6	0	0	0	36
LaDainian Tomlinson	NYJ	6	6	0	0	0	36
Nate Washington	TEN	6	0	6	0	0	36
Reggie Wayne	IND	6	0	6	0	0	36
Danny Woodhead	NE	6	5	1	0	0	36
Davone Bess	MIA	5	0	5	0	0	30
Deion Branch	NE	5	0	5	0	0	30
Ronnie Brown	MIA	5	5	0	0	0	30
David Garrard	JAC	5	5	0	0	0	30
Todd Heap	BAL	5	0	5	0	0	30
Dustin Keller	NYJ	5	0	5	0	0	30
Zach Miller	OAK	5	0	5	0	0	30
Brandon Tate	NE	5	0	3	2	0	30
Mike Thomas	JAC	5	0	4	1	0	30
Kevin Walter	HOU	5	0	5	0	0	30
Hines Ward	PIT	5	0	5	0	0	30
Blair White	IND	5	0	5	0	0	30

ICON SMI

NFC '10 STATS



SCORING

KICKERS	TEAM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
David Akers	PHI	47	47	32	38	143
Matt Bryant	ATL	44	44	28	31	128
Josh Brown	STL	26	27	33	39	125
David Buehler	DAL	42	44	24	32	114
Mason Crosby	GB	46	46	22	28	112
Robbie Gould	CHI	35	35	25	30	110
Jay Feely	ARI	29	29	24	27	107
Olindo Mare	SEA	31	31	25	30	106
Connor Barth	TB	36	36	23	28	105
Graham Gano	WAS	28	28	24	35	100
Garrett Hartley	NO	40	40	20	25	100
Lawrence Tynes	NYG	43	43	19	23	100
John Kasay	CAR	17	17	25	29	92
Ryan Longwell	MIN	30	31	17	18	81
Jason Hanson	DET	19	19	12	14	55
Dave Rayner	DET	16	16	13	16	55
Joe Nedney	SF	17	17	11	13	50

NON-KICKERS	TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	2PT	PTS
Adrian Peterson	MIN	13	12	1	0	0	78
Calvin Johnson	DET	12	0	12	0	1	74
Greg Jennings	GB	12	0	12	0	0	72
Michael Turner	ATL	12	12	0	0	0	72
Hakeem Nicks	NYG	11	0	11	0	0	66
Mike Williams	TB	11	0	11	0	0	66
Roddy White	ATL	10	0	10	0	2	64
Jeremy Maclin	PHI	10	0	10	0	0	60
Matt Forte	CHI	9	6	3	0	1	56
Jason Witten	DAL	9	0	9	0	1	56
Brandon Jacobs	NYG	9	9	0	0	0	54
Mario Manningham	NYG	9	0	9	0	0	54
LeSean McCoy	PHI	9	7	2	0	0	54
Michael Vick	PHI	9	9	0	0	0	54
Ahmad Bradshaw	NYG	8	8	0	0	1	50
Miles Austin	DAL	8	1	7	0	0	48
Dez Bryant	DAL	8	0	6	2	0	48
DeSean Jackson	PHI	8	1	6	1	0	48
Lance Moore	NO	8	0	8	0	0	48
Vernon Davis	SF	7	0	7	0	1	44
Percy Harvin	MIN	7	1	5	1	1	44
Marques Colston	NO	7	0	7	0	0	42
Devin Hester	CHI	7	0	4	3	0	42
Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	6	0	6	0	1	38
Jahvid Best	DET	6	4	2	0	0	36
LeGarrette Blount	TB	6	6	0	0	0	36
Nate Burleson	DET	6	0	6	0	0	36
Michael Crabtree	SF	6	0	6	0	0	36
Tony Gonzalez	ATL	6	0	6	0	0	36
Steven Jackson	STL	6	6	0	0	0	36
John Kuhn	GB	6	4	2	0	0	36
Marshawn Lynch	SEA	6	6	0	0	0	36
Santana Moss	WAS	6	0	6	0	0	36
Ryan Torain	WAS	6	4	2	0	0	36
Roy Williams	DAL	5	0	5	0	1	32
Kevin Boss	NYG	5	0	5	0	0	30
Frank Gore	SF	5	3	2	0	0	30
Jimmy Graham	NO	5	0	5	0	0	30
Tim Hightower	ARI	5	5	0	0	0	30
Chris Ivory	NO	5	5	0	0	0	30
James Jones	GB	5	0	5	0	0	30
Johnny Knox	CHI	5	0	5	0	0	30
Robert Meachem	NO	5	0	5	0	0	30
Maurice Morris	DET	5	5	0	0	0	30
Greg Olsen	CHI	5	0	5	0	0	30
Jason Snelling	ATL	5	2	3	0	0	30
Brian Westbrook	SF	5	4	1	0	0	30
Keiland Williams	WAS	5	3	2	0	0	30
Kellen Winslow	TB	5	0	5	0	0	30
Ben Obomanu	SEA	4	0	4	0	2	28
Marion Barber	DAL	4	4	0	0	0	24
Deon Butler	SEA	4	0	4	0	0	24
Brent Celek	PHI	4	0	4	0	0	24
Donald Driver	GB	4	0	4	0	0	24
Brandon Jackson	GB	4	3	1	0	0	24
Brandon Pettigrew	DET	4	0	4	0	0	24
Aaron Rodgers	GB	4	4	0	0	0	24
Leon Washington	SEA	4	1	0	3	0	24

TEAM SCORING

TEAM	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	2PTA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Philadelphia	47	18	28	1	47	47	1	2	32	38	0	439
Atlanta	44	14	28	2	44	44	2	3	28	31	0	414
Dallas	42	10	29	3	42	44	2	2	24	32	0	394
New York Giants	48	17	31	0	47	47	1	1	19	23	0	394
Green Bay	42	11	31	0	46	46	0	0	22	28	0	388
New Orleans	42	9	33	0	43	43	0	1	25	31	1	384
Detroit	38	11	26	1	35	36	2	5	25	30	1	362
Tampa Bay	36	9	26	1	36	36	1	3	23	28	0	341
Chicago	36	10	23	3	35	35	1	2	25	30	0	334
Seattle	30	13	14	3	31	31	2	2	25	30	1	310
San Francisco	30	10	19	1	33	33	1	1	22	27	0	305
Washington	31	9	21	1	28	28	2	5	24	35	0	302
Arizona	21	9	10	2	29	29	1	2	24	27	0	289
St. Louis	27	9	18	0	26	27	0	0	33	39	1	289
Minnesota	31	16	14	1	30	31	1	2	17	18	0	281
Carolina	16	7	9	0	17	17	0	0	25	29	1	196
NFC AVERAGE	35.1	11.4	22.5	1.2	35.6	35.9	1.1	1.9	24.6	29.8	0.3	338.9

PASSING

241+ ATTEMPTS	TEAM	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	TD%	LONG	INT	INT%	SACKS	LOSS	RATING
Aaron Rodgers	GB	475	312	65.7	3,922	8.3	28	5.9	86t	11	2.3	31	193	101.2
Michael Vick	PHI	372	233	62.6	3,018	8.1	21	5.6	91t	6	1.6	34	210	100.2
Josh Freeman	TB	474	291	61.4	3,451	7.3	25	5.3	64	6	1.3	28	195	95.9
Matt Ryan	ATL	571	357	62.5	3,705	6.5	28	4.9	46	9	1.6	23	158	91.0
Drew Brees	NO	658	448	68.1	4,620	7.0	33	5.0	80t	22	3.3	25	185	90.9
Jon Kitna	DAL	318	209	65.7	2,365	7.4	16	5.0	71t	12	3.8	21	100	88.9
Jay Cutler	CHI	432	261	60.4	3,274	7.6	23	5.3	89t	16	3.7	52	352	86.3
Eli Manning	NYG	539	339	62.9	4,002	7.4	31	5.8	92t	25	4.6	16	117	85.3
Alex Smith	SF	342	204	59.6	2,370	6.9	14	4.1	62t	10	2.9	25	140	82.1
Shaun Hill	DET	416	257	61.8	2,686	6.5	16	3.8	75t	12	2.9	17	113	81.3
Donovan McNabb	WAS	472	275	58.3	3,377	7.2	14	3.0	76	15	3.2	37	271	77.1
Sam Bradford	STL	590	354	60.0	3,512	6.0	18	3.1	49	15	2.5	34	244	76.5
Matt Hasselbeck	SEA	444	266	59.9	3,001	6.8	12	2.7	87t	17	3.8	29	175	73.2
Brett Favre	MIN	358	217	60.6	2,509	7.0	11	3.1	53t	19	5.3	22	139	69.9
Derek Anderson	ARI	327	169	51.7	2,065	6.3	7	2.1	43	10	3.1	25	176	65.9
Jimmy Clausen	CAR	299	157	52.5	1,558	5.2	3	1.0	55t	9	3.0	33	223	58.4

NET PUNTING

43+ PUNTS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Mat McBriar	DAL	65	3,115	65	47.9	8	1	33	205	22	41.7
Donnie Jones	STL	94	4,276	63	45.5	4	0	45	435	32	40.0
Sav Rocca	PHI	73	3,195	63	43.8	2	0	34	309	28	39.0
Chris Kluwe	MIN	83	3,569	59	43.0	5	0	32	241	32	38.9
Thomas Morstead	NO	57	2,618	64	45.9	6	0	26	310	21	38.4
Andy Lee	SF	91	4,203	64	46.2	12	0	54	483	34	38.2
Tim Masthay	GB	71	3,114	62	43.9	5	0	31	341	25	37.6
Jon Ryan	SEA	78	3,254	63	41.7	1	0	35	327	27	37.3
Ben Graham	ARI	94	4,080	65	43.4	9	0	35	458	29	36.6
Jason Baker	CAR	95	4,097	60	43.1	7	0	54	488	22	36.5
Robert Malone	TB	52	2,160	64	41.5	5	0	22	160	17	36.5
Nick Harris	DET	90	4,018	66	44.6	8	0	54	633	24	35.8
Michael Koenen	ATL	74	3,014	61	40.7	5	1	28	241	29	35.6
Brad Maynard	CHI	83	3,326	56	40.1	5	0	39	303	24	35.2
Matt Dodge	NYG	72	3,222	69	44.8	9	1	36	535	20	34.3
Hunter Smith	WAS	57	2,310	56	40.5	1	0	25	371	17	33.7

ICON SMI

RUSHING

112+ YARDS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Arian Foster	HOU	327	1,616	4.9	74t	16
Jamaal Charles	KC	230	1,467	6.4	80	5
Chris Johnson	TEN	316	1,364	4.3	76t	11
Maurice Jones-Drew	JAC	299	1,324	4.4	37	5
Rashard Mendenhall	PIT	324	1,273	3.9	50t	13
Ray Rice	BAL	307	1,220	4.0	50	5
Peyton Hillis	CLE	270	1,177	4.4	48	11
Darren McFadden	OAK	223	1,157	5.2	57t	7
Cedric Benson	CIN	321	1,111	3.5	26	7
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	NE	229	1,008	4.4	33t	13
Fred Jackson	BUF	222	927	4.2	39	5
LaDainian Tomlinson	NYJ	219	914	4.2	31	6
Thomas Jones	KC	245	896	3.7	70	6
Knowshon Moreno	DEN	182	779	4.3	35	5
Shonn Greene	NYJ	185	766	4.1	23t	2
Mike Tolbert	SD	182	735	4.0	36	11
Ronnie Brown	MIA	200	734	3.7	51	5
Ryan Mathews	SD	158	678	4.3	31t	7
Ricky Williams	MIA	159	673	4.2	45t	2
Michael Bush	OAK	158	655	4.1	30	8
Danny Woodhead	NE	97	547	5.6	36t	5
Donald Brown	IND	129	497	3.9	49	2
Joseph Addai	IND	116	495	4.3	46	4
Rashad Jennings	JAC	84	459	5.5	74t	4
Willis McGahee	BAL	100	380	3.8	30t	5

RECEIVING

20+ CATCHES	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Reggie Wayne	IND	111	1,355	12.2	50	6
Andre Johnson	HOU	86	1,216	14.1	60	8
Brandon Marshall	MIA	86	1,014	11.8	46	3
Wes Welker	NE	86	848	9.9	35	7
Steve Johnson	BUF	82	1,073	13.1	45	10
Davone Bess	MIA	79	820	10.4	29	5
Brandon Lloyd	DEN	77	1,448	18.8	71	11
Dwayne Bowe	KC	72	1,162	16.1	75t	15
Terrell Owens	CIN	72	983	13.7	78t	9
Benjamin Watson	CLE	68	763	11.2	44	3
Pierre Garçon	IND	67	784	11.7	57t	6
Chad Ochocinco	CIN	67	831	12.4	42	4
Jacob Tamme	IND	67	631	9.4	30	4
Arian Foster	HOU	66	604	9.2	50	2
Mike Thomas	JAC	66	820	12.4	50t	4
Jabar Gaffney	DEN	65	875	13.5	50	2
Anquan Boldin	BAL	64	837	13.1	61	7
Ray Rice	BAL	63	556	8.8	34	1
Peyton Hillis	CLE	61	477	7.8	47	2
Derrick Mason	BAL	61	802	13.1	42	7
Zach Miller	OAK	60	685	11.4	43t	5
Mike Wallace	PIT	60	1,257	21.0	56t	10
Eddie Royal	DEN	59	627	13.6	41	3
Darren Sproles	SD	59	520	8.8	57t	2
Hines Ward	PIT	59	755	12.8	43	5
Austin Collie	IND	58	649	11.2	73t	8
Marcedes Lewis	JAC	58	700	12.1	42t	10
Dustin Keller	NYJ	55	687	12.5	41	5
Braylon Edwards	NYJ	53	904	17.1	74t	7
Jermaine Gresham	CIN	52	471	9.1	27	4
Santonio Holmes	NYJ	52	746	14.3	52	6
Jordan Shipley	CIN	52	600	11.5	64t	3
LaDainian Tomlinson	NYJ	52	368	7.1	21	0
Jacoby Jones	HOU	51	562	11.0	47	3
Kevin Walter	HOU	51	621	12.2	35	5
Antonio Gates	SD	50	782	15.6	48t	10
Deion Branch	NE	48	706	14.7	79t	5
Darren McFadden	OAK	47	507	10.8	67t	3
Tony Moeaki	KC	47	556	11.8	34	3
Jamaal Charles	KC	45	468	10.4	31	3
Aaron Hernandez	NE	45	563	12.5	46	6
Chris Johnson	TEN	44	245	5.6	25	1
Brian Hartline	MIA	43	615	14.3	54	1
Mike Sims-Walker	JAC	43	562	13.1	39	7
Kenny Britt	TEN	42	775	18.5	80t	9
Rob Gronkowski	NE	42	546	13.0	28	10
Heath Miller	PIT	42	512	12.2	36	2
Nate Washington	TEN	42	687	16.4	71t	6

INTERCEPTIONS

2+ INTERCEPTIONS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Ed Reed	BAL	8	183	22.9	44	0
Devin McCourty	NE	7	110	15.7	50	0
Troy Polamalu	PIT	7	101	14.4	45t	1
Joe Haden	CLE	6	101	16.8	62	0
Eric Berry	KC	4	102	25.5	54t	1
Antoine Cason	SD	4	51	12.8	28	0
Derek Cox	JAC	4	14	3.5	14	0
Michael Griffin	TEN	4	50	12.5	28	0
Leon Hall	CIN	4	19	4.8	22	0
Jason Allen	HOU	3	1	0.3	1	0
Pat Chung	NE	3	96	32.0	51t	1
Antonio Cromartie	NYJ	3	75	25.0	66	0
Drayton Florence	BUF	3	42	14.0	40t	1
Michael Huff	OAK	3	32	10.7	17	0
Johnathan Joseph	CIN	3	38	12.7	21t	1
Kendrick Lewis	KC	3	46	15.3	23	0
Dwight Lowery	NYJ	3	87	29.0	41	2
Brandon Meriweather	NE	3	39	13.0	39	0
Troy Nolan	HOU	3	35	11.7	20	0
Glover Quin	HOU	3	12	4.0	10	0
James Sanders	NE	3	60	20.0	32t	1
Alterraun Verner	TEN	3	41	13.7	19	0
Josh Wilson	BAL	3	12	4.0	12t	1
Mike Adams	CLE	2	51	25.5	26	0
Champ Bailey	DEN	2	0	0.0	0	0
David Bowens	CLE	2	94	47.0	64t	2
Sheldon Brown	CLE	2	0	0.0	0	0
Kevin Burnett	SD	2	31	15.5	29t	1
Chris Carr	BAL	2	13	6.5	12	0
Ryan Clark	PIT	2	34	17.0	23	0
Marquice Cole	NYJ	2	49	24.5	35t	1
Abram Elam	CLE	2	18	9.0	18	0
Cortland Finnegan	TEN	2	41	20.5	41t	1
Brandon Flowers	KC	2	33	16.5	33t	1
Aaron Francisco	IND	2	10	5.0	11	0
Steve Gregory	SD	2	41	20.5	41	0
Gary Guyton	NE	2	72	36.0	59t	1

KICK RETURNS

20+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
David Reed	BAL	21	616	29.3	103t	1
Brad Smith	NYJ	50	1,432	28.6	97T	2
Brandon Tate	NE	41	1,057	25.8	103t	2
Marc Mariani	TEN	60	1,530	25.5	98t	1
Eric Decker	DEN	22	556	25.3	51	0
Emmanuel Sanders	PIT	25	628	25.1	48	0
Deji Karim	JAC	50	1,248	25.0	65	0
Darren Sproles	SD	51	1,257	24.6	45	0
Nolan Carroll	MIA	27	655	24.3	46	0
Jacoby Ford	OAK	53	1,280	24.2	101t	3
Jalen Parmele	BAL	24	562	23.4	39	0
Tiquan Underwood	JAC	24	561	23.4	53	0
C.J. Spiller	BUF	44	1,014	23.0	95t	1
Bernard Scott	CIN	56	1,257	22.4	60	0
Jacoby Jones	HOU	23	494	21.5	35	0

PUNT RETURNS

21+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Julian Edelman	NE	21	6	321	15.3	94t	1
Marc Mariani	TEN	27	17	329	12.2	87t	1
Eddie Royal	DEN	25	12	298	11.9	33	0
Davone Bess	MIA	25	20	284	11.4	47	0
Jim Leonhard	NYJ	21	19	238	11.3	32	0
Mike Thomas	JAC	34	7	358	10.5	78t	1
Lardarius Webb	BAL	21	12	199	9.5	35	0
Javier Arenas	KC	39	7	322	8.3	36	0
Quan Cosby	CIN	30	21	225	7.5	20	0
Nick Miller	OAK	35	7	257	7.3	46	0
Jacoby Jones	HOU	29	15	204	7.0	39	0
Darren Sproles	SD	24	11	166	6.9	16	0

SACKS

4.0+ SACKS	TEAM	NO
Tamba Hali	KC	14.5
Cameron Wake	MIA	14.0
Jason Babin	TEN	12.5
Robert Mathis	IND	11.0
Shaun Phillips	SD	11.0
Terrell Suggs	BAL	11.0
James Harrison	PIT	10.5
Dwight Freeney	IND	10.0
LaMarr Woodley	PIT	10.0
Carlos Dunlap	CIN	9.5
Kamerion Wimbley	OAK	9.0
Mario Williams	HOU	8.5
Marcus Benard	CLE	7.5
Dave Ball	TEN	7.0
Wallace Gilberry	KC	7.0
Tommy Kelly	OAK	7.0
Matt Shaughnessy	OAK	7.0
Kevin Burnett	SD	6.0
James Farrior	PIT	6.0
Bryan Thomas	NYJ	6.0
Antonio Garay	SD	5.5
Haloti Ngata	BAL	5.5
Calvin Pace	NYJ	5.5
Richard Seymour	OAK	5.5
Kyle Williams	BUF	5.5
D.J. Williams	DEN	5.5
Mike Wright	NE	5.5
Tully Banta-Cain	NE	5.0
Mario Haggan	DEN	5.0
Lamarr Houston	OAK	5.0
Jeremy Mincey	JAC	5.0
Jason Taylor	NYJ	5.0
Antwan Barnes	SD	4.5
Shaun Ellis	NYJ	4.5
Koa Misi	MIA	4.5
Mark Anderson	HOU	4.0
Tyvon Branch	OAK	4.0
Drew Coleman	NYJ	4.0
Michael Huff	OAK	4.0
Aaron Kampman	JAC	4.0
Terrance Knighton	JAC	4.0
Rob Ninkovich	NE	4.0
Antonio Smith	HOU	4.0

RICHARD C. LEWIS / ICON SMI

SACKS

4.0+ SACKS	TEAM	NO
DeMarcus Ware	DAL	15.5
Clay Matthews	GB	13.5
John Abraham	ATL	13.0
Charles Johnson	CAR	11.5
Justin Tuck	NYG	11.5
Osi Umenyiora	NYG	11.5
Jared Allen	MIN	11.0
Chris Clemons	SEA	11.0
James Hall	STL	10.5
Trent Cole	PHI	10.0
Ndamukong Suh	DET	10.0
Raheem Brock	SEA	9.0
Cliff Avril	DET	8.5
Chris Long	STL	8.5
Brian Orakpo	WAS	8.5
Justin Smith	SF	8.5
Ray Edwards	MIN	8.0
Israel Idonije	CHI	8.0
Julius Peppers	CHI	8.0
Cullen Jenkins	GB	7.0
B.J. Raji	GB	6.5
Calais Campbell	ARI	6.0
Sedrick Ellis	NO	6.0
Lawrence Jackson	DET	6.0
Juqua Parker	PHI	6.0
Fred Robbins	STL	6.0
Patrick Willis	SF	6.0
Will Smith	NO	5.5
Ahmad Brooks	SF	5.0
Darnell Dockett	ARI	5.0
Clark Haggans	ARI	5.0
Travis LaBoy	SF	5.0
Turk McBride	DET	5.0
Joey Porter	ARI	5.0
Anthony Spencer	DAL	5.0
Jason Pierre-Paul	NYG	4.5
Stylez G. White	TB	4.5
C.J. Ah You	STL	4.0
Jonathan Babineaux	ATL	4.0
Barry Cofield	NYG	4.0
Parys Haralson	SF	4.0
Geno Hayes	TB	4.0
Mathias Kiwanuka	NYG	4.0
Trevor Laws	PHI	4.0
Lawyer Milloy	SEA	4.0
Brian Urlacher	CHI	4.0
Kyle Vanden Bosch	DET	4.0
Jonathan Vilma	NO	4.0
Frank Zombo	GB	4.0

TODD KIRKLAND / ICON SMI

INTERCEPTIONS

2+ INTERCEPTIONS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Asante Samuel	PHI	7	70	10.0	33	0
DeAngelo Hall	WAS	6	92	15.3	92t	1
Aqib Talib	TB	6	91	15.2	45t	1
Tramon Williams	GB	6	87	14.5	64	0
Charles Godfrey	CAR	5	112	22.4	38	0
Brent Grimes	ATL	5	84	16.8	36	0
Chris Harris	CHI	5	69	13.8	39	0
William Moore	ATL	5	117	23.4	34	0
Terence Newman	DAL	5	16	3.2	30	0
Gerald Sensabaugh	DAL	5	26	5.2	10	0
Alphonso Smith	DET	5	48	9.6	42t	1
Earl Thomas	SEA	5	68	13.6	34	0
Terrell Thomas	NYG	5	56	11.2	28	0
Charles Tillman	CHI	5	127	25.4	56	0
Nick Collins	GB	4	34	8.5	24	0
Bradley Fletcher	STL	4	41	10.3	28	0
D.J. Moore	CHI	4	95	23.8	54t	1
Dimitri Patterson	PHI	4	40	10.0	40t	1
Kerry Rhodes	ARI	4	174	43.5	66	0
Corey Webster	NYG	4	11	2.8	13	0
Husain Abdullah	MIN	3	5	1.7	5	0
Nate Allen	PHI	3	27	9.0	16	0
Oshiomogho Atogwe	STL	3	53	17.7	34	0
Ronde Barber	TB	3	98	32.7	64	0
Nate Clements	SF	3	46	15.3	39	0
Deon Grant	NYG	3	0	0.0	0	0
A.J. Hawk	GB	3	31	10.3	21	0
E.J. Henderson	MIN	3	10	3.3	10	0
Richard Marshall	CAR	3	91	30.3	66	0
Quintin Mikell	PHI	3	0	0.0	0	0
Captain Munnerlyn	CAR	3	37	12.3	37t	1
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	ARI	3	86	28.7	32t	2
Shawntae Spencer	SF	3	0	0.0	0	0
Takeo Spikes	SF	3	9	3.0	6	0
Michael Adams	ARI	2	36	18.0	36	0
Asher Allen	MIN	2	27	13.5	27	0
Jared Allen	MIN	2	40	20.0	36t	1

KICK RETURNS

20+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Eric Weems	ATL	40	1,100	27.5	102t	1
LaRod Stephens-Howling	ARI	57	1,548	27.2	102t	2
Stefan Logan	DET	55	1,448	26.3	105t	1
Michael Spurlock	TB	44	1,129	25.7	89T	1
Leon Washington	SEA	57	1,461	25.6	101t	3
Brandon Banks	WAS	46	1,155	25.1	96t	1
Danieal Manning	CHI	33	816	24.7	62	0
Courtney Roby	NO	33	785	23.8	39	0
Percy Harvin	MIN	40	933	23.3	95t	1
Danny Amendola	STL	50	1,142	22.8	84	0
Jordy Nelson	GB	22	496	22.5	51	0
Bryan McCann	DAL	23	507	22.0	38	0
Mike Goodson	CAR	48	1,048	21.8	46	0
Akwasi Owusu-Ansah	DAL	25	543	21.7	41	0
Jorrick Calvin	PHI	32	692	21.6	41	0
Sam Shields	GB	21	452	21.5	49	0

PUNT RETURNS

21+ RETURNS	TEAM	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Devin Hester	CHI	33	10	564	17.1	89t	3
Ted Ginn	SF	24	18	321	13.4	78t	1
Stefan Logan	DET	30	21	362	12.1	71	0
Danny Amendola	STL	40	18	452	11.3	42	0
Brandon Banks	WAS	38	10	431	11.3	53	0
Leon Washington	SEA	22	8	249	11.3	84	0
Captain Munnerlyn	CAR	30	6	327	10.9	37	0
Greg Camarillo	MIN	39	20	359	9.2	52	0
Tramon Williams	GB	41	19	326	8.0	52	0
Andre Roberts	ARI	35	8	263	7.5	25	0
Michael Spurlock	TB	28	16	193	6.9	23	0
Darius Reynaud	NYG	23	5	132	5.7	20	0

RUSHING

112+ YARDS	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Michael Turner	ATL	334	1,371	4.1	55	12
Adrian Peterson	MIN	283	1,298	4.6	80t	12
Steven Jackson	STL	330	1,241	3.8	42t	6
Ahmad Bradshaw	NYG	276	1,235	4.5	48t	8
LeSean McCoy	PHI	207	1,080	5.2	62	7
Matt Forte	CHI	237	1,069	4.5	68t	6
LeGarrette Blount	TB	201	1,007	5.0	53	6
Frank Gore	SF	203	853	4.2	64	3
Brandon Jacobs	NYG	147	823	5.6	73	9
Felix Jones	DAL	185	800	4.3	34	1
Jonathan Stewart	CAR	178	770	4.3	48	2
Ryan Torain	WAS	164	742	4.5	54	4
Tim Hightower	ARI	153	736	4.8	80t	5
Chris Ivory	NO	137	716	5.2	55t	5
Brandon Jackson	GB	190	703	3.7	71	3
Michael Vick	PHI	100	676	6.8	35	9
Marshawn Lynch	SEA	165	573	3.5	39	6
Jahvid Best	DET	171	555	3.2	45	4
Justin Forsett	SEA	118	523	4.4	32	2
Mike Goodson	CAR	103	452	4.4	45	3
Cadillac Williams	TB	125	437	3.5	45t	2
Beanie Wells	ARI	116	397	3.4	24	2
Marion Barber	DAL	113	374	3.3	25	4
Josh Freeman	TB	68	364	5.4	33	0
DeAngelo Williams	CAR	87	361	4.1	39t	1

RECEIVING

20+ CATCHES	TEAM	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Roddy White	ATL	115	1,389	12.1	46	10
Jason Witten	DAL	94	1,002	10.7	33	9
Santana Moss	WAS	93	1,115	12.0	56	6
Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	90	1,137	12.6	41	6
Danny Amendola	STL	85	689	8.1	36	3
Marques Colston	NO	84	1,023	12.2	43	7
Hakeem Nicks	NYG	79	1,052	13.3	46t	11
LeSean McCoy	PHI	78	592	7.6	40	2
Chris Cooley	WAS	77	849	11.0	35	3
Calvin Johnson	DET	77	1,120	14.5	87t	12
Greg Jennings	GB	76	1,265	16.6	86t	12
Percy Harvin	MIN	71	868	12.2	53t	5
Brandon Pettigrew	DET	71	722	10.2	35	4
Tony Gonzalez	ATL	70	656	9.4	34	6
Jeremy Maclin	PHI	70	964	13.8	83t	10
Miles Austin	DAL	69	1,041	15.1	69t	7
Lance Moore	NO	66	763	11.6	80t	8
Kellen Winslow	TB	66	730	11.1	41t	5
Mike Williams	SEA	65	751	11.6	68	2
Mike Williams	TB	65	964	14.8	58t	11
Mario Manningham	NYG	60	944	15.7	92t	9
Jahvid Best	DET	58	487	8.4	75t	2
Vernon Davis	SF	56	914	16.3	66t	7
Nate Burleson	DET	55	625	11.4	58	6
Michael Crabtree	SF	55	741	13.5	60t	6
Brandon Gibson	STL	53	620	11.7	41	2
Jason Avant	PHI	51	573	11.2	34	1
Donald Driver	GB	51	565	11.1	61t	4
Matt Forte	CHI	51	547	10.7	89t	3
Johnny Knox	CHI	51	960	18.8	67t	5
James Jones	GB	50	679	13.6	66t	5
Felix Jones	DAL	48	450	9.4	71t	1
Steve Smith	NYG	48	529	11.0	45	3
Ahmad Bradshaw	NYG	47	314	6.7	18	0
Steve Breaston	ARI	47	718	15.3	37	1
DeSean Jackson	PHI	47	1,056	22.5	91t	6
Visanthe Shiancoe	MIN	47	530	11.3	33	2
Earl Bennett	CHI	46	561	12.2	48	3
Frank Gore	SF	46	452	9.8	41	2
Steven Jackson	STL	46	383	8.3	49	0
Steve Smith	CAR	46	554	12.0	39	2
Cadillac Williams	TB	46	355	7.7	20	1
Dez Bryant	DAL	45	561	12.5	46	6
Jordy Nelson	GB	45	582	12.9	80t	2
Tony Scheffler	DET	45	378	8.4	25	1

2011 WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TELEVISED PRESEASON GAMES

Sunday, Aug. 7
Hall of Fame Game (Canton, Ohio)
Chicago vs. St. Louis 8 p.m., NBC
Thursday, Aug. 11
Seattle at San Diego 8 p.m., ESPN
Friday, Aug. 12
Tampa Bay at Kansas City 8 p.m., FOX
Monday, Aug. 15
N.Y. Jets at Houston 8 p.m., ESPN
Thursday, Aug. 18
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh 8 p.m., FOX
Friday, Aug. 19
Atlanta at Jacksonville 8 p.m., FOX
Monday, Aug. 22
Chicago at N.Y. Giants 8 p.m., ESPN
Thursday, Aug. 25
Washington at Baltimore 8 p.m., ESPN
Friday, Aug. 26
Green Bay at Indianapolis 8 p.m., CBS
Saturday, Aug. 27
New England at Detroit 8 p.m., CBS
Sunday, Aug. 28
New Orleans at Oakland 8 p.m., NBC

REGULAR SEASON GAMES

All times Eastern

WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 8
New Orleans at Green Bay 8:30
Sunday, Sept. 11
Detroit at Tampa Bay 1:00
Atlanta at Chicago 1:00
Indianapolis at Houston 1:00
Philadelphia at St. Louis 1:00
Pittsburgh at Baltimore 1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland 1:00
Tennessee at Jacksonville 1:00
Seattle at San Francisco 4:15
Carolina at Arizona 4:15
Minnesota at San Diego 4:15
N.Y. Giants at Washington 4:15
Dallas at N.Y. Jets 8:20
Monday, Sept. 12
New England at Miami 7:00
Oakland at Denver 10:15

WEEK 2

Sunday, Sept. 18
Chicago at New Orleans 1:00
Kansas City at Detroit 1:00
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Oakland at Buffalo 1:00
Arizona at Washington 1:00
Baltimore at Tennessee 1:00
Seattle at Pittsburgh 1:00
Green Bay at Carolina 1:00
Tampa Bay at Minnesota 1:00
Cleveland at Indianapolis 1:00
Dallas at San Francisco 4:05
Houston at Miami 4:15
San Diego at New England 4:15
Cincinnati at Denver 4:15
Philadelphia at Atlanta 8:20
Monday, Sept. 19
St. Louis at N.Y. Giants 8:30

WEEK 3

Sunday, Sept. 25
San Francisco at Cincinnati 1:00
New England at Buffalo 1:00
Houston at New Orleans 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia 1:00
Miami at Cleveland 1:00
Denver at Tennessee 1:00
Detroit at Minnesota 1:00
Jacksonville at Carolina 1:00
Kansas City at San Diego 4:05
N.Y. Jets at Oakland 4:05
Baltimore at St. Louis 4:05
Atlanta at Tampa Bay 4:15
Arizona at Seattle 4:15
Green Bay at Chicago 4:15
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis 8:20
Monday, Sept. 26
Washington at Dallas 8:30

WEEK 4

Sunday, Oct. 2
Detroit at Dallas 1:00
New Orleans at Jacksonville 1:00
San Francisco at Philadelphia 1:00
Washington at St. Louis 1:00
Tennessee at Cleveland 1:00
Buffalo at Cincinnati 1:00
Minnesota at Kansas City 1:00
Carolina at Chicago 1:00
Pittsburgh at Houston 1:00
N.Y. Giants at Arizona 4:05
Atlanta at Seattle 4:05
Miami at San Diego 4:15
Denver at Green Bay 4:15
New England at Oakland 4:15
N.Y. Jets at Baltimore 8:20
Monday, Oct. 3
Indianapolis at Tampa Bay 8:30

WEEK 5

(Open date: Baltimore, Cleveland, Dallas, Miami, St. Louis, Washington)

Sunday, Oct. 9
Kansas City at Indianapolis 1:00
Arizona at Minnesota 1:00
Philadelphia at Buffalo 1:00
Oakland at Houston 1:00
New Orleans at Carolina 1:00
Cincinnati at Jacksonville 1:00
Tennessee at Pittsburgh 1:00
Seattle at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Tampa Bay at San Francisco 4:05
N.Y. Jets at New England 4:15
San Diego at Denver 4:15
Green Bay at Atlanta 8:20
Monday, Oct. 10
Chicago at Detroit 8:30

WEEK 6

(Open date: Arizona, Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle, Tennessee)

Sunday, Oct. 16
St. Louis at Green Bay 1:00
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh 1:00
Philadelphia at Washington 1:00
San Francisco at Detroit 1:00
Carolina at Atlanta 1:00
Indianapolis at Cincinnati 1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Houston at Baltimore 4:05
Cleveland at Oakland 4:05
Dallas at New England 4:15
New Orleans at Tampa Bay 4:15
Minnesota at Chicago 8:20
Monday, Oct. 17
Miami at N.Y. Jets 8:30

WEEK 7

(Open date: Buffalo, Cincinnati, New England, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia, San Francisco)

Sunday, Oct. 23
Washington at Carolina 1:00
San Diego at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Seattle at Cleveland 1:00
Chicago at Tampa Bay* 1:00
Houston at Tennessee 1:00
Denver at Miami 1:00
Atlanta at Detroit 1:00
Kansas City at Oakland 4:05
Pittsburgh at Arizona 4:05
St. Louis at Dallas 4:15
Green Bay at Minnesota 4:15
Indianapolis at New Orleans 4:15
**in London*
Monday, Oct. 24
Baltimore at Jacksonville 8:30

WEEK 8

(Open date: Atlanta, Chicago, Green Bay, N.Y. Jets, Oakland, Tampa Bay)

Sunday, Oct. 30
Miami at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Indianapolis at Tennessee 1:00
Minnesota at Carolina 1:00
New Orleans at St. Louis 1:00
Arizona at Baltimore 1:00
Jacksonville at Houston 1:00
Washington at Buffalo* 4:05
Detroit at Denver 4:05
New England at Pittsburgh 4:15
Cleveland at San Francisco 4:15
Cincinnati at Seattle 4:15
Dallas at Philadelphia 8:20
**in Toronto*
Monday, Oct. 31
San Diego at Kansas City 8:30

WEEK 9

(Open date: Carolina, Detroit, Jacksonville, Minnesota)

Sunday, Nov. 6
Seattle at Dallas 1:00
Miami at Kansas City 1:00
Tampa Bay at New Orleans 1:00
San Francisco at Washington 1:00
Cleveland at Houston 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo 1:00
Atlanta at Indianapolis 1:00
Denver at Oakland 4:05
Cincinnati at Tennessee 4:05
Green Bay at San Diego 4:15
St. Louis at Arizona 4:15
N.Y. Giants at New England 4:15
Baltimore at Pittsburgh 8:20
Monday, Nov. 7
Chicago at Philadelphia 8:30

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 10
Oakland at San Diego 8:20
Sunday, Nov. 13
Washington at Miami 1:00
St. Louis at Cleveland 1:00
Detroit at Chicago 1:00
Buffalo at Dallas 1:00
Denver at Kansas City 1:00
Arizona at Philadelphia 1:00
Tennessee at Carolina 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati 1:00
Houston at Tampa Bay 1:00
New Orleans at Atlanta 1:00
Jacksonville at Indianapolis 1:00
Baltimore at Seattle 4:05
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco 4:15
New England at N.Y. Jets 8:20
Monday, Nov. 14
Minnesota at Green Bay 8:30

WEEK 11

(Open date: Houston, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Pittsburgh)

Thursday, Nov. 17
N.Y. Jets at Denver 8:20
Sunday, Nov. 20
Carolina at Detroit 1:00
Tampa Bay at Green Bay 1:00
Dallas at Washington 1:00
Jacksonville at Cleveland 1:00
Cincinnati at Baltimore 1:00
Buffalo at Miami 1:00
Oakland at Minnesota 1:00
Tennessee at Atlanta 1:00
Seattle at St. Louis 4:05
Arizona at San Francisco 4:05
San Diego at Chicago 4:15
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Nov. 21
Kansas City at New England 8:30

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 24
Green Bay at Detroit 12:30
Miami at Dallas 4:15
San Francisco at Baltimore 8:20
Sunday, Nov. 27
Carolina at Indianapolis 1:00
Tampa Bay at Tennessee 1:00
Houston at Jacksonville 1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati 1:00
Minnesota at Atlanta 1:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Arizona at St. Louis 1:00
Chicago at Oakland 4:05
Washington at Seattle 4:05
New England at Philadelphia 4:15
Denver at San Diego 4:15
Pittsburgh at Kansas City 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Nov. 28
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans 8:30

WEEK 13

Thursday, Dec. 1
Philadelphia at Seattle 8:20
Thursday, Dec. 1
Detroit at New Orleans 1:00
Tennessee at Buffalo 1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh 1:00
Oakland at Miami 1:00
Kansas City at Chicago 1:00
Baltimore at Cleveland 1:00
Carolina at Tampa Bay 1:00
Atlanta at Houston 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Washington 1:00
Denver at Minnesota 4:05
Green Bay at N.Y. Giants 4:15
St. Louis at San Francisco 4:15
Dallas at Arizona 4:15
Indianapolis at New England 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Dec. 5
San Diego at Jacksonville 8:30

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 8
Cleveland at Pittsburgh 8:20
Sunday, Dec. 11
Indianapolis at Baltimore 1:00
Washington at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Minnesota at Detroit 1:00
Houston at Cincinnati 1:00
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville 1:00
Atlanta at Carolina 1:00
Oakland at Green Bay 1:00
Philadelphia at Miami 1:00
New Orleans at Tennessee 1:00
New England at Washington 1:00
San Francisco at Arizona 4:05
Chicago at Denver 4:05
Buffalo at San Diego 4:15
N.Y. Giants at Dallas 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Dec. 12
St. Louis at Seattle 8:30

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 15
Jacksonville at Atlanta 8:20
Saturday, Dec. 17
Dallas at Tampa Bay 8:20
Sunday, Dec. 18
New Orleans at Minnesota 1:00
Seattle at Chicago 1:00
Cincinnati at St. Louis 1:00
Tennessee at Indianapolis 1:00
Miami at Buffalo 1:00
Washington at N.Y. Giants 1:00
Green Bay at Kansas City 1:00
Carolina at Houston 1:00
Detroit at Oakland 4:05
New England at Denver 4:15
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia 4:15
Cleveland at Arizona 4:15
Baltimore at San Diego 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Dec. 19
Pittsburgh at San Francisco 8:30

WEEK 16

Thursday, Dec. 22
Houston at Indianapolis 8:20
Saturday, Dec. 24
St. Louis at Pittsburgh 1:00
Denver at Buffalo 1:00
Tampa Bay at Carolina 1:00
Minnesota at Washington 1:00
Oakland at Kansas City 1:00
Cleveland at Baltimore 1:00
Miami at New England 1:00
Jacksonville at Tennessee 1:00
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets 1:00
Arizona at Cincinnati 1:00
San Diego at Detroit 4:05
San Francisco at Seattle 4:15
Philadelphia at Dallas 4:15
Sunday, Dec. 25
Chicago at Green Bay 8:20
Note: Sunday night game subject to change
Monday, Dec. 26
Atlanta at New Orleans 8:30

WEEK 17

Sunday, Jan. 1
Buffalo at New England 1:00
Tampa Bay at Atlanta 1:00
Chicago at Minnesota 1:00
Carolina at New Orleans 1:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami 1:00
Indianapolis at Jacksonville 1:00
Baltimore at Cincinnati 1:00
Detroit at Green Bay 1:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland 1:00
Dallas at N.Y. Giants 1:00
San Francisco at St. Louis 1:00
Washington at Philadelphia 1:00
Tennessee at Houston 1:00
Kansas City at Denver 4:15
San Diego at Oakland 4:15
Seattle at Arizona 4:15
Note: One of the Sunday games will move to 8:20 p.m.

POSTSEASON GAMES

WILD-CARD GAMES
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 7-8, 2012

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Sat.-Sun., Jan. 14-15, 2012

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012

PRO BOWL
Aloha Stadium, Honolulu
Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012

SUPER BOWL 46
Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis
Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012

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2010 SEASON RECAP

AFC

AFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	14	2	0	.875	518	313
New York Jets*	11	5	0	.688	367	304
Miami	7	9	0	.438	273	333
Buffalo	4	12	0	.250	283	425

AFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750	375	232
Baltimore*	12	4	0	.750	357	270
Cleveland	5	11	0	.313	271	332
Cincinnati	4	12	0	.250	322	395

AFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	6	0	.625	435	388
Jacksonville	8	8	0	.500	353	419
Houston	6	10	0	.375	390	427
Tennessee	6	10	0	.375	356	339

AFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	6	0	.625	366	326
San Diego	9	7	0	.563	441	322
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	410	371
Denver	4	12	0	.250	344	471

NFC

NFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	439	377
New York Giants	10	6	0	.625	394	347
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	394	436
Washington	6	10	0	.375	302	377

NFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Chicago	11	5	0	.688	334	286
Green Bay*	10	6	0	.625	388	240
Detroit	6	10	0	.375	362	369
Minnesota	6	10	0	.375	281	348

NFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Atlanta	13	3	0	.813	414	288
New Orleans*	11	5	0	.688	384	307
Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	341	318
Carolina	2	14	0	.125	196	408

NFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	310	407
St. Louis	7	9	0	.438	289	328
San Francisco	6	10	0	.375	305	346
Arizona	5	11	0	.313	289	434

*wild card

WILD-CARD GAMES

NEW YORK JETS	**17**	New Orleans	36
Indianapolis	16	**SEATTLE**	**41**
BALTIMORE	**30**	**GREEN BAY**	**21**
Kansas City	7	Philadelphia	16

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Baltimore	24	**GREEN BAY**	**48**
PITTSBURGH	**31**	Atlanta	21
NEW YORK JETS	**28**	Seattle	24
New England	21	**CHICAGO**	**35**

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

New York Jets	19
PITTSBURGH	**24**

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

GREEN BAY	**21**
Chicago	14

SUPER BOWL 45

GREEN BAY	**31**
PITTSBURGH	25

WILD-CARD GAMES

AFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	0	7	10	**17**
Indianapolis	0	7	3	6	**16**

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Baltimore	3	7	13	7	**30**
Kansas City	7	0	0	0	**7**

NFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New Orleans	10	10	0	16	**36**
Seattle	7	17	10	7	**41**

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Green Bay	7	7	7	0	**21**
Philadelphia	0	3	7	6	**16**

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

AFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Baltimore	14	7	0	3	**24**
Pittsburgh	7	0	14	10	**31**

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	14	0	14	**28**
New England	3	0	8	10	**21**

NFC

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Green Bay	0	28	14	6	**48**
Atlanta	7	7	0	7	**21**

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Seattle	0	0	3	21	**24**
Chicago	14	7	7	7	**35**

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

AFC

New York Jets at Pittsburgh

TEAM STATS	NYJ	PIT
Total net rushing	70	166
Total net passing	219	121
Total net yards	289	287
First downs	17	23
Sacked-yards lost	2-14	2-12
Third-down conversions	5-14	6-11
Fourth-down conversions	2-3	0-1
Time of possession	25:19	34:41

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
New York Jets	0	3	7	9	**19**
Pittsburgh	7	17	0	0	**24**

NFC

Green Bay at Chicago

TEAM STATS	GB	CHI
Total net rushing	120	83
Total net passing	236	218
Total net yards	356	301
First downs	23	17
Sacked-yards lost	1-8	2-15
Third-down conversions	2-11	1-13
Fourth-down conversions	0-0	1-2
Time of possession	34:04	25:56

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Green Bay	7	7	0	7	**21**
Chicago	0	0	0	14	**14**

SUPER BOWL 45

AT COWBOYS STADIUM, ARLINGTON, TEXAS
Feb. 6, 2011
ATTENDANCE: 103,219

SCORING	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Pittsburgh	0	10	7	8	**25**
GREEN BAY	**14**	**7**	**0**	**10**	**31**

SCORING

	QTR	TIME	
GB	1	3:44	Nelson 29-yard pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick)
GB	1	3:20	Collins 37-yard interception return (Crosby kick)
PIT	2	11:08	Suisham 33-yard field goal
GB	2	2:24	Jennings 21-yard pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick)
PIT	2	0:39	Ward 8-yard pass from Roethlisberger (Suisham kick)
PIT	3	10:19	Mendenhall 8-yard run (Suisham kick)
GB	4	11:57	Jennings 8-yard pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick)
PIT	4	7:34	Wallace 25-yard pass from Roethlisberger (Randle El run)
GB	4	2:07	Crosby 23-yard field goal

TEAM STATISTICS

	PIT	GB
Total net rushing	126	50
Total net passing	261	288
Total net yards	387	338
First downs	19	15
Sacked-yards lost	1-2	3-16
Third-down conversions	7-13	6-13
Fourth-down conversions	0-1	0-0
Time of possession	33:25	26:35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

PITTSBURGH: Mendenhall 14-63-TD, Roethlisberger 4-31, Redman 2-19, Moore 3-13, Randle El 0-0

GREEN BAY: Starks 11-52, Rodgers 2-(-2)

PASSING

PITTSBURGH: Roethlisberger 25-40-263-2 TD-2 INT

GREEN BAY: Rodgers 24-39-304-3 TD

RECEIVING

PITTSBURGH: Wallace 9-89-TD, Ward 7-78-TD, Randle El 2-50, Sanders 2-17, Miller 2-12, Spaeth 1-9, Mendenhall 1-7, Brown 1-1

GREEN BAY: Nelson 9-140-TD, Jennings 4-64-2 TD, Jones 5-50, Driver 2-28, Jackson 1-14, Quarless 1-5, Hall 1-2, Crabtree 1-1

SACKS

PITTSBURGH: Harrison 1, Hood 1, Woodley 1

GREEN BAY: Zombo 1

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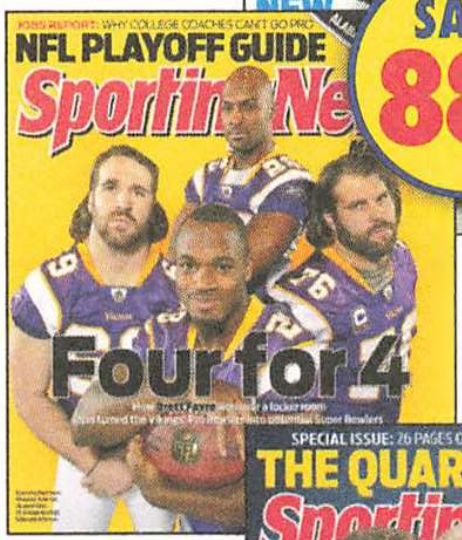

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